S5375-1

1984 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY

JULY 1, 1983-JUNE 30, 1984

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex • CN-037 • Trenton • New Jersey • 08625

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ROBERT D. LIPSCHER
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS

CN-037
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

To the Honorable Chief Justice and
Justices of the Supreme Court:

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Judiciary for court year 1984. The court year has been changed to run from July 1 through June 30 to coincide with the State fiscal year.

For the fifth consecutive year, New Jersey's upper courts have disposed of more cases than were filed during the year -- a record 749,000 dispositions. This achievement and the many new programs undertaken during the year represent the outstanding efforts of judges and court personnel, and lawyers and laypeople who serve on the Courts' Committees.

Sincerely,

Robert D Lipscher

Robert D. Lipscher

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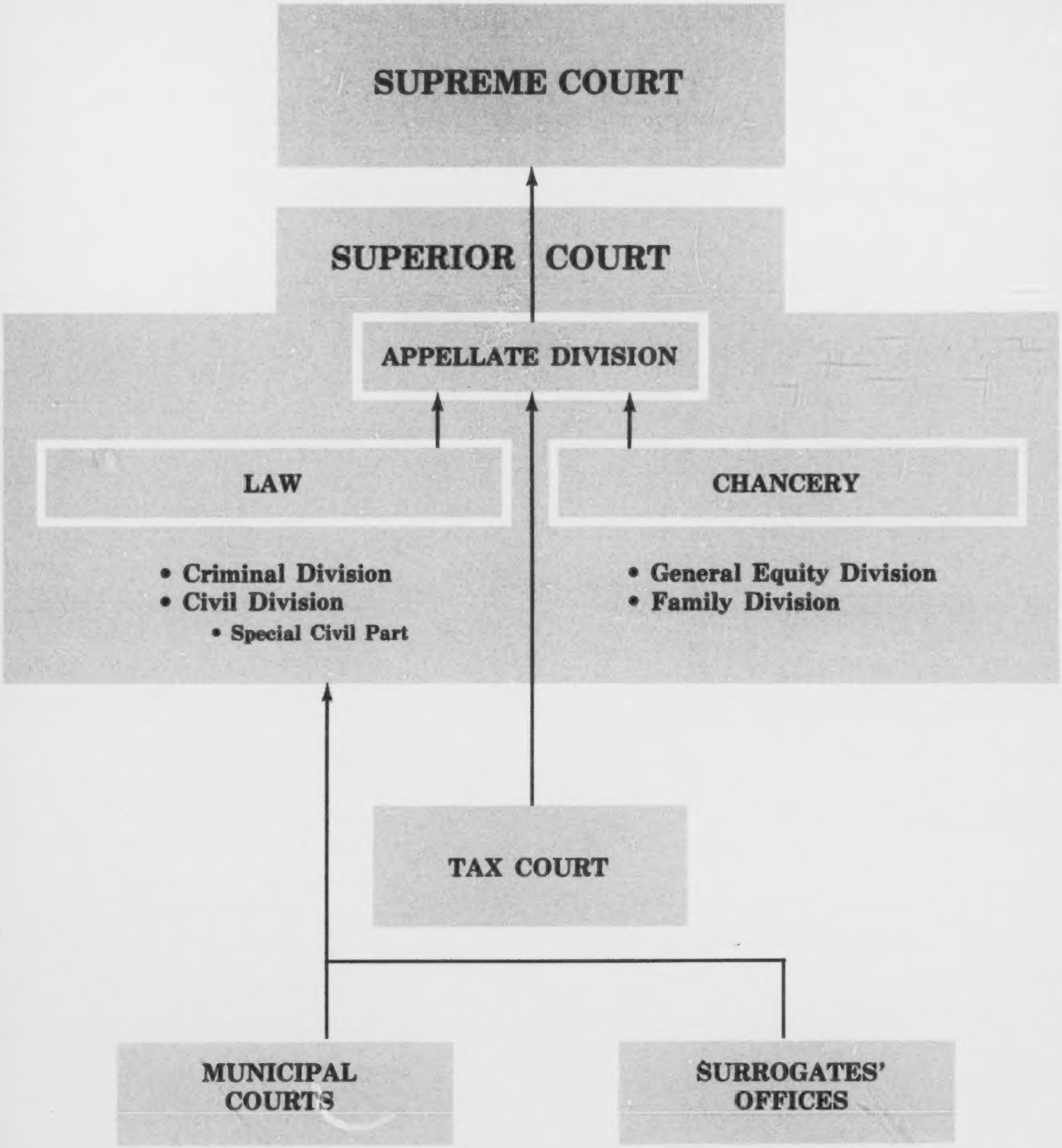
The Court System

(AS OF JUNE 30, 1984)


SUPREME COURT
SUPERIOR COURT
APPELLATE DIVISION
LAW
CHANCERY
• Criminal Division
• Civil Division
• Special Civil Part
• General Equity Division
• Family Division
TAX COURT
MUNICIPAL COURTS
SURROGATES' OFFICES

# of New Jersey

(JUSTICES, JUDGES AND JURISDICTIONS)

SUPREME COURT: Chief Justice and 6 Associate Justices. Initial term of 7 years with tenure on reappointment. Mandatory retirement at 70.

Final Appeal in:

1. Constitutional questions
2. Issues where dissent in Appellate Division
3. Capital causes
4. Certifications
5. In such cases as provided by law

SUPERIOR COURT: 345 Judges authorized. Term, tenure and retirement same as Supreme Court.*

APPELLATE DIVISION

Appeals from:

1. Law and Chancery Divisions
2. Tax Court
3. State Administrative Agencies
4. As provided by law

LAW

Criminal Division

1. General jurisdiction in all criminal causes

Civil Division

1. General jurisdiction in all civil causes
2. Appeals from Municipal Courts
3. Probate

Special Civil Part

1. Contract, penalty and tort actions up to $5,000
2. Landlord and tenant actions
3. Small claims up to $1,000

CHANCERY

General Equity Division

1. General jurisdiction in all equity causes
2. Probate

Family Division

1. Juvenile Delinquency
2. Dissolution (Matrimonial)
3. Non-Dissolution (Domestic Relations)
4. Adoptions
5. Juvenile and Family in Crisis

TAX COURT: 12 Judges authorized. Term same as Superior Court except for the 1979 appointments. Tenure and retirement same as Supreme Court. The Tax Court reviews the determinations of agencies and officials charged with administration of state and local taxes in particular:

1. Local property tax assessments
2. State tax assessments
3. Equalization tables promulgated by the director of the Division of Taxation or the County Boards of Taxation

MUNICIPAL COURTS: 359 Judges. Term, 3 years.

1. Traffic and motor vehicle violations
2. Ordinance violations
3. Disorderly persons offenses
4. Fish and game and navigation violations
5. Other specified crimes
6. Probable cause hearings on indictable offenses

SURROGATES' OFFICES: 21 Surrogates. Elected. Term 5 years.

1. Uncontested probate matters
2. Deputy clerk of the Superior Court for probate matters

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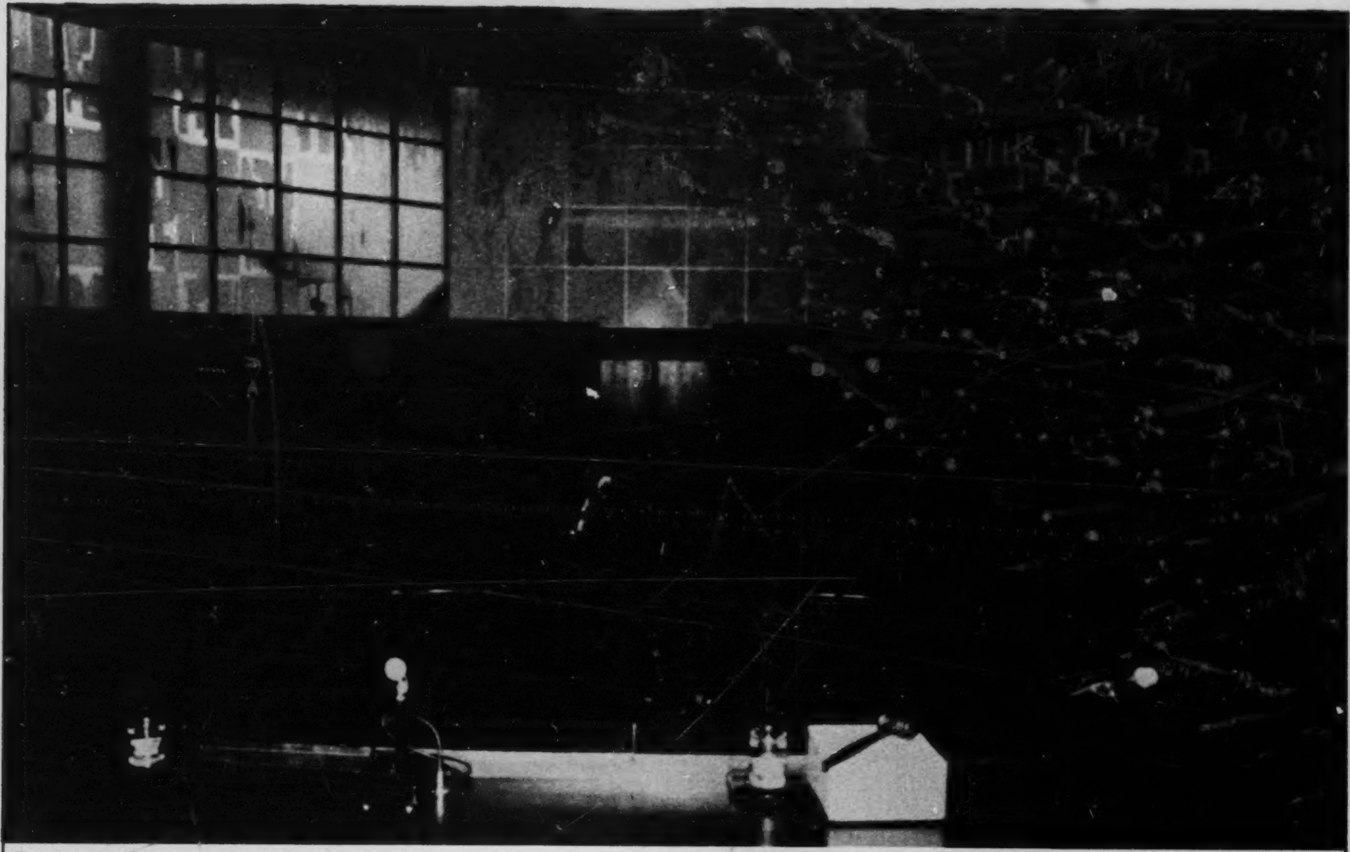
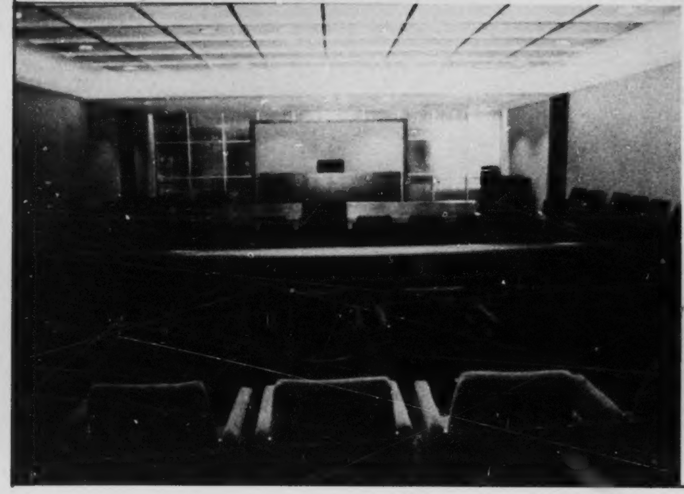
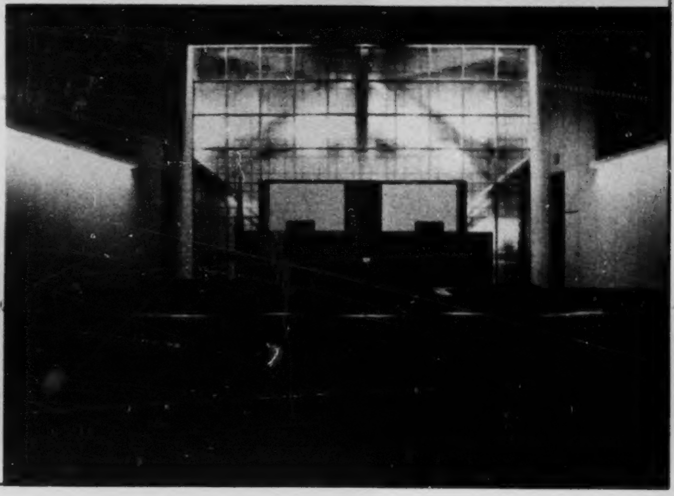
*As of December 31, 1983, Judges formerly of the District Courts and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts are Judges of the Superior Court. Those with tenure retain tenure. Non-tenured Judges in this category hold office for the unexpired portion of their terms, and receive tenure on reappointment.







Overview

New Jersey Supreme Court courtroom (top, clockwise) Appellate Division courtroom and Tax Court courtroom.

OVERVIEW

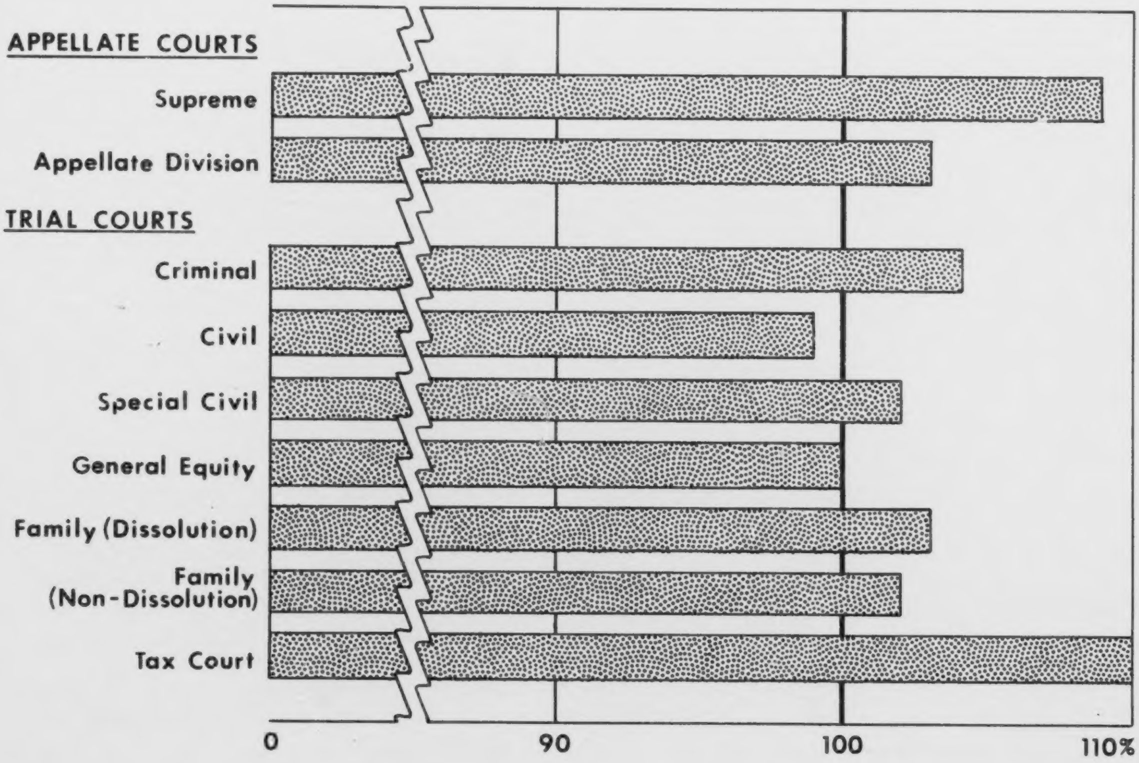
During 1984, the New Jersey Judiciary continued to make progress toward a current calendar Last year, the size of the backlog was reduced by 11,000 cases. This is the fifth consecutive year that dispositions exceeded filings, an unprecedented occurrence.

Calendar clearance, an explicit goal of case management in New Jersey courts since 1980, looks forward to the day that backlog is eliminated in the courts. The currency of a court calendar is achieved when cases are considered as soon as they are ready for hearing or trial. In other words, the elimination of backlog is not meant to rush cases that are not yet ripe for disposition but to attend to them as soon as they are ready for court action.

Since 1980, the size of the backlog has been cut by more than 43,000 cases. In 1980, the number of cases pending stood at 218,791, the second highest ever. That has now been reduced by 20%, due to the calendar clearance and backlog reduction efforts of New Jersey's judges and court personnel.

During the five years of calendar clearance, the productivity of the judges has increased by 16% and techniques to expedite the flow of work have been developed. Case preparation time has not been reduced, but the dead time between events has been shortened. In some instances cumbersome or duplicative steps have been eliminated, and the process of getting cases through the system to disposition has been simplified.

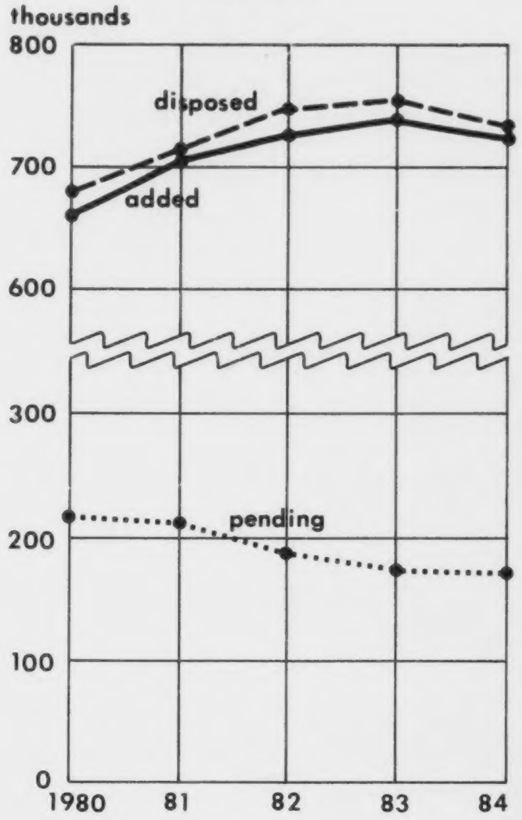
CALENDAR CLEARANCE
1984



The time to disposition still remains too long for many cases. National court organizations have endorsed national time standards for various kinds of trial court cases, and the New Jersey courts will review those standards and consider their adoption. Due to changes in case categories, an exact comparison cannot be made.

With the accomplishments over the last five years in clearing the calendar and moving toward currency, the standards we will set will be achievable.

CASELOAD TRENDS
1980-1984



CASELOAD

	1983	1984	% Change
Added	740,112	738,026	-0.3%
Dispositions	756,154	749,432	-0.9%
Pending	178,667	175,638	-1.7%

CASES ADDED

Although total new cases decreased slightly for the first time in eighteen years due to declines in filings on high-volume Special Civil Part (formerly District) and Family Division Non-Dissolution, Juvenile Delinquency, and Domestic Violence calendars, several time-intensive trial calendars registered significant increases. Criminal filings increased by 4.5%, Civil by 2.8%, and Dissolution (formerly Matrimonial) by 0.7%. This trend of increases in the more time-consuming trial calendars shows how significant it was to clear the calendar overall.

The number of cases added in 1984 was 11.6% above the 1980 level. The total of 738,026 cases added is the second highest level ever in New Jersey.

Looking at the trends in cases added by vicinage (judicial district) only five of fifteen vicinages saw increases in the volume of cases coming into the courts. The largest increase was recorded by the Bergen vicinage (2.7%) followed by Middlesex (2.4%). The Essex vicinage showed the greatest decline (-7.2%).

CASES ADDED BY CALENDAR
1983 - 1984

	1983	1984	% Change
Appellate Courts			
Supreme Court	542	404	-25.5
Appellate Division	6,414	6,391	-0.4
Superior Court			
Criminal	35,534	37,135	4.5
Civil	57,089	58,692	2.8
Special Civil	374,461	368,639	-1.6
General Equity	6,792	6,784	-0.1
Family			
Dissolution	30,103	30,325	0.7
Non-Dissolution	97,403	87,821	-9.8
Juvenile Delinquency	93,720	88,068	-6.0
JINS*	11,510	4,742*	N/A
Special Family**	N/A	10,229	N/A
1/Domestic Violence	16,442	13,842	-15.8
Minor Trial Calendars			
Municipal Appeals	3,747	4,006	6.9
Post-Conviction	226	297	31.4
Probate	686	688	0.3
Tax Court	5,443	5,547	1.9
Total w/o Foreclosure	740,112	723,610	-2.2
Foreclosures	N/A	14,416	N/A
Total with Foreclosures	740,112	738,026	-0.3

* 1984 JINS cases are only for 7/83 - 12/83

** 1984 Special Family effective 1/84

1/ Domestic Violence 7/1/83 - 6/30/84 compared to court year one year ago 9/1/82 - 8/31/83.

CASES ADDED BY VICINAGE (Trial Courts Only)
1983 - 1984

	1983	1984*	% Change
Vicinage #1			
Combined	40,700	39,119	-3.9
Atlantic	31,249	30,737	-1.6
Cape May	9,451	8,382	11.3
Vicinage #2			
Bergen	60,338	61,955	2.7
Vicinage #3			
Burlington	26,209	24,738	-5.6
Vicinage #4			
Camden	51,894	52,775	1.7
Vicinage #5			
Essex	131,171	121,759	-7.2
Vicinage #6			
Hudson	59,534	60,695	2.0
Vicinage #7			
Mercer	34,119	32,574	-4.5
Vicinage #8			
Middlesex	48,827	49,995	2.4
Vicinage #9			
Monmouth	44,840	43,493	-3.0
Vicinage #10			
Combined	32,547	31,405	-3.5
Morris	24,757	23,702	-4.3
Sussex	7,790	7,703	-1.1
Vicinage #11			
Passaic	51,073	51,733	1.3
Vicinage #12			
Union	48,970	47,390	-3.2
Vicinage #13			
Combined	25,415	23,856	-6.1
Somerset	14,078	13,057	-7.3
Hunterdon	4,926	4,762	-3.3
Warren	6,411	6,037	-5.8
Vicinage #14			
Ocean	29,881	28,673	-4.0
Vicinage #15			
Combined	42,195	41,168	-2.6
Gloucester	16,566	16,154	-2.5
Cumberland	17,737	17,190	-3.1
Salem	7,892	7,764	-1.6
State Total	727,713	711,268	-2.2

* JINS cases included 7/83 - 11/83. Special Family effective 1/84.

DISPOSITIONS

As with cases added, dispositions declined in 1984. Total dispositions for 1984 were 749,432 cases, a 10% increase over 1980. Only the 1983 dispositions totals have ever been higher. The modest decline of 0.9% compared to 1983 was due in large measure to decreases in the high-volume Special Civil Part and Family Non-Dissolution calendars. Of particular note is the 17.5% increase in General Equity dispositions followed by the Appellate Division (7.8%), Criminal (4.2%), and Civil (3.8%). The increased production on these four time-intensive calendars reflects the sustained level of productivity in the New Jersey courts. The Tax Court decline of 19.0% was due to the institution of a change in case classification and the fact that the thousands of pending cases on hand when the Tax Court was created in 1979 have been disposed of.

CASE DISPOSITION BY CALENDAR

1983 - 1984

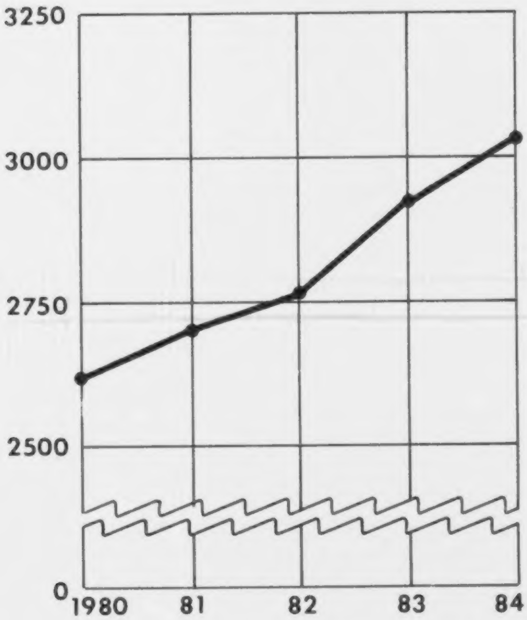
	1983	1984	% Change
Appellate Courts			
Supreme Court	500	439	-12.2
Appellate Division	6,075	6,551	7.8
Superior Court			
Criminal	37,095	38,640	4.2
Civil	55,932	58,060	3.8
Special Civil	384,226	374,112	-2.6
General Equity	5,771	6,783	17.5
Family			
Dissolution	31,591	31,238	-1.1
Non-Dissolution	99,571	88,850	-10.8
Juvenile Delinquency	95,248	90,135	-5.4
JINS*	11,680	5,359*	N/A
Special Family**	N/A	10,322	N/A
1/Domestic Violence	16,465	13,856	-15.8
Minor Trial Calendars			
Appeals	3,595	4,031	12.1
Post-Conviction	210	292	39.0
Probate	692	649	-6.2
Tax Court	7,503	6,080	-19.0
Total w/o Foreclosure	756,154	735,397	-2.7
Foreclosures	N/A	14,035	N/A
Total with Foreclosure	756,154	749,432	-0.9

INTENTIONAL
BLANK

One of the better indicators of judicial productivity is dispositions per judge. As calculated per equivalent judge for trial courts, this measure increased again in 1984 for the sixth consecutive year. Cases per judge stood at 3,039, a 3.6% increase as compared with one year ago. Since 1980, productivity has increased by 16%.

On a vicinage level, total dispositions decreased by 2.6% as 12 of the State's 15 vicinages reflected decreases in dispositions. However, increases in dispositions did increase in some vicinages with Middlesex leading the way (+7.2%).

DISPOSITIONS PER JUDGE
1980-1984



METHOD OF DISPOSITION

The method of dispostion of cases varies considerably from claendar to calendar. While 25.8% of cases are decided at trials or hearings, the trial rate varies from 7.2% of all dispositions in Civil and Criminal to 65.2% of Non-Dissolution matters. Pleas, settlements, and dismissals represent the greatest portion of dispositions, totalling 39.8% of all calendars. This proportion varies too among calendars ranging from a high of 90.6% in Civil (and 60.2% in Criminal) to a low of 9.7% in Non-Dissolution. Other dispositions account for 34.4% of total dispositions and include referrals to other agencies, default judgements, transfers, PTI dispositions, and dismissals in Criminal and Juvenile cases.

CASE DISPOSITIONS BY VICINAGE (Trial Courts Only)

1983 - 1984

	1983	1984*	% Change
Vicinage #1			
Combined	41,711	40,398	-1.8
Atlantic	32,129	31,577	-1.7
Cape May	9,582	8,821	-7.9
Vicinage #2			
Bergen	61,513	63,706	3.6
Vicinage #3			
Burlington	27,107	25,491	-6.0
Vicinage #4			
Camden	52,758	52,574	-0.3
Vicinage #5			
Essex	134,074	121,922	-9.1
Vicinage #6			
Hudson	61,885	62,012	0.2
Vicinage #7			
Mercer	33,638	32,902	-2.2
Vicinage #8			
Middlesex	49,020	52,531	7.2
Vicinage #9			
Monmouth	46,334	43,526	-6.1
Vicinage #10			
Combined	32,927	32,050	-2.7
Morris	25,280	203,876	-5.6
Sussex	7,647	8,174	6.9
Vicinage #11			
Passaic	52,092	52,581	0.9
Vicinage #12			
Union	49,288	47,310	-4.0
Vicinage #13			
Combined	26,422	24,621	-6.8
Hunterdon	5,263	5,034	-4.4
Somerset	14,829	13,422	-9.5
Warren	6,330	6,165	-2.6
Vicinage #14			
Ocean	30,622	29,030	-5.2
Vicinage #15			
Combined	42,685	41,673	-2.4
Cumberland	17,388	17,108	-1.6
Gloucester	16,879	16,673	-1.2
Salem	8,418	7,892	-6.2
State Total	742,076	722,327	-2.6

* JINS cases included 7/83 - 11/83. Special Family effective 1/84.

METHOD OF DISPOSITION *

	1984	% of Total
Criminal Defendants		
Total Trials	2,791	7.2
Tried to Completion	2,480	6.4
Partially Tried	311	0.8
Guilty Plea	23,258	60.2
Other	12,591	32.6
Total Dispositions	38,640	100.0
Civil		
Total Trials	4,181	7.2
Tried to Completion	2,790	4.8
Partially Tried	1,391	2.4
Settlements/Dismissals	52,595	90.6
Other	1,284	2.2
Total Dispositions	58,060	100.0
General Equity		
Total Trials	4,181	7.2
Tried to Completion	2,790	4.8
Partially Tried	142	2.1
Settlements/Dismissals	3,182	46.9
Other	2,499	36.8
Total Dispositions	6,783	100.0
Dissolution		
Hearings/Trials	8,593	27.5
Settlements/Dismissals	15,974	51.1
Other	6,671	21.4
Total Dispositions	31,238	100.0
Juvenile Delinquency		
Hearings	50,248	55.7
With Counsel	36,457	40.4
Without Counsel	13,791	27.4
Referred or Transferred	32,406	36.0
Other	7,481	8.3
Total Dispositions	90,135	100.0
Non-Dissolution		
Hearings	57,972	65.2
Inactive	8,612	9.7
Other	6,288	7.1
Intake	15,978	18.0
Total Dispositions	88,850	100.0
Special Civil		
Trials	52,424	14.0
Tried to Completion	48,066	12.8
Partially Tried	4,358	1.2
Settlements/Dismissals	170,104	45.5
Other	151,584	40.5
Total Disposition	374,112	100.0
TOTAL		
Trials/Hearing	177,311	25.8
Pleas/Settlements/Dismissals	273,725	39.8
Other	236,782	34.4
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	687,818 *	100.0

* Does not include minor calendars, JINS, Special Family, and Domestic Violence.

CASES PENDING

Total cases pending decreased by 3,127 during the 1984 court year or 1.7%. Due to the fifth consecutive year of calendar clearance, the number of pending cases stands at its lowest level since 1977. Significant decreases occurred in Juvenile Delinquency (-26.1%), Non-Dissolution (-22.2%), Supreme Court (-14.8%), and Special Civil Part (-13.5%) as compared with last year. Eight of the State's 15 vicinages achieved decreases in cases pending.

The decline in the number of active cases pending is particularly impressive in relation to the increase in dispositions. At the end of 1980, there were 218,791 cases pending or 32% of total dispositions. In the 1984 court year, there were 175,540 cases pending, or only 24% of total dispositions.

TOTAL CASES PENDING BY CALENDAR

1983 - 1984

	1983	1984	% Change
Appellate Courts			
Supreme Court	237	202	-14.8
Appellate Division	6,336	6,176	-2.5
Superior Court			
Criminal	30,864	29,359	-4.9
Civil	59,571	60,203	1.1
Special Civil	40,592	35,119	-13.5
General Equity	3,501	3,502	0
Family			
Dissolution	16,456	15,543	-5.5
Non-Dissolution	4,627	3,598	-22.2
Juvenile Delinquency	7,925	5,858	-26.1
JINS*	617	N/A*	N/A
Special Family**	N/A	8,527	N/A
1/Domestic Violence	386	412	6.7
Minor Trial Calendars			
Municipal Appeals	957	932	-2.6
Post-Conviction	68	83	7.4
Probate	239	278	16.3
Tax Court	6,291	5,758	-8.5
Total w/o Foreclosure	178,667	175,540	-1.8
Foreclosures	N/A	98	N/A
Total with Foreclosure	178,667	175,638	-1.7

ACTIVE CASES PENDING BY VICINAGE (Trial Courts Only)

1983 - 1984

	1983	1984*	% Change
Vicinage #1			
Combined	5,849	5,231	-10.6
Atlantic	4,129	3,763	-8.9
Cape May	1,720	1,468	-14.7
Vicinage #2			
Bergen	17,070	15,795	-7.5
Vicinage #3			
Burlington	5,176	5,179	0.1
Vicinage #4			
Camden	7,880	8,901	13.0
Vicinage #5			
Essex	19,208	21,898	14.0
Vicinage #6			
Hudson	10,338	10,138	-1.9
Vicinage #7			
Mercer	6,548	6,933	5.9
Vicinage #8			
Middlesex	16,087	14,542	-9.6
Vicinage #9			
Monmouth	12,179	12,728	4.5
Vicinage #10			
Combined	7,828	7,665	-2.1
Morris	5,822	6,028	3.5
Sussex	2,006	1,637	-18.4
Vicinage #11			
Passaic	8,794	8,849	0.6
Vicinage #12			
Union	9,938	10,543	6.1
Vicinage #13			
Combined	4,563	4,148	-9.1
Hunterdon	1,303	1,081	-17.0
Somerset	2,140	1,921	-10.2
Warren	1,120	1,146	2.3
Vicinage #14			
Ocean	6,112	5,714	-6.5
Vicinage #15			
Combined	7,992	7,881	-1.4
Cumberland	2,696	2,966	10.0
Gloucester	4,444	4,190	-5.7
Salem	852	725	-14.9
State Total	145,562	146,145	0.4

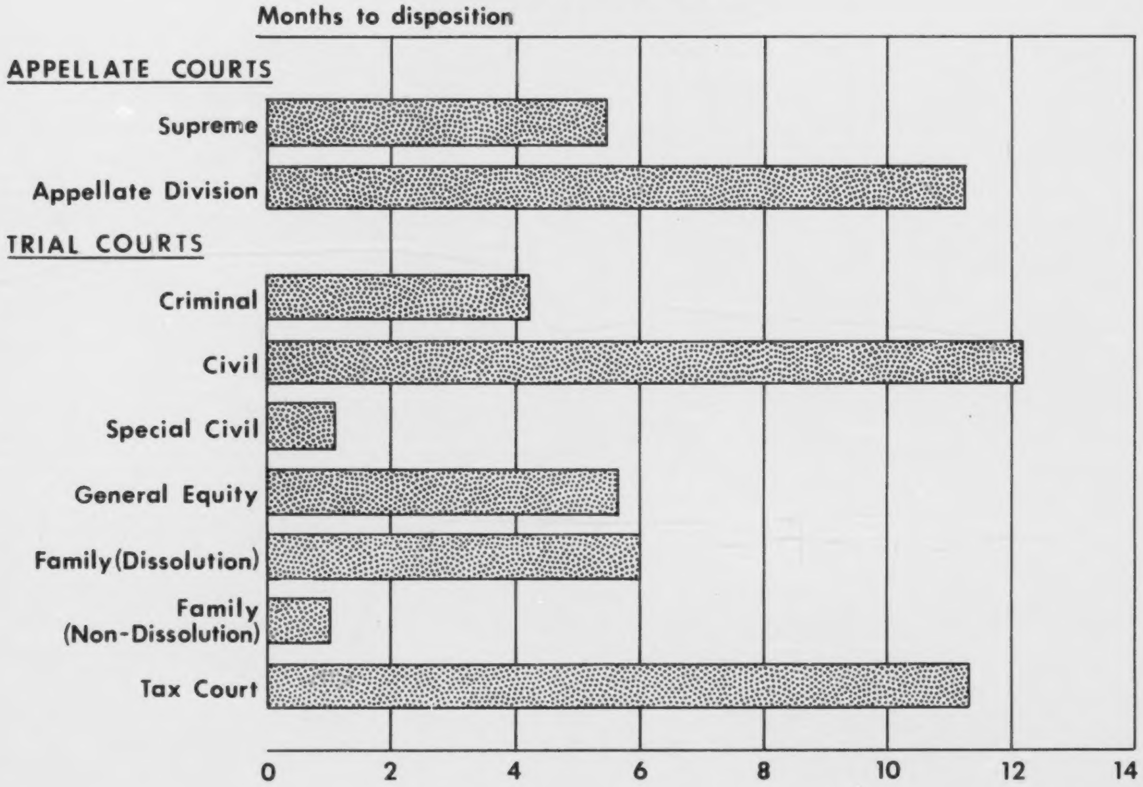
* JINS cases included 7/83 - 11/83. Special Family effective 1/84.

The decline in pending cases can be expressed in different ways. In 1984, that decline resulted in a sizable decrease in backlog, if backlog is viewed as a number of pending cases over and above what the court can handle within a reasonable period of time.

The graph below shows a ratio of pending cases to the average number of cases disposed of per month. That ratio can be used to establish an index representing the number of months the court would need to dispose of all of its current active pending caseload. The chart below displays this index for New Jersey as of June 30, 1984. Generally high-volume Special Civil and Family calendars have the lowest indices at 1.1 months. Criminal stands at a very modest 4.2 months. At the high end stands Civil at 12.2 months, Appellate Division at 11.3 and the Tax Court at 11.4 months.

Over the past year, this measure of pending cases has improved. At the end of 1983, for example, there was an index of 12.2 months to disposition in the Appellate Division's pending cases, compared to 11.3 at the end of 1984. Similarly, the measure has improved for the Supreme Court, Civil, Criminal, Dissolution, General Equity, and Special Civil Part. Only in Family cases other than Dissolution and Tax Court did this index not improve during 1984.

ACTIVE CASES PENDING
MONTHS TO DISPOSITION



ALLOCATION OF JUDGES

During 1984, a total of six additional judgeships were authorized. There are now a total of 348 authorized judgeships.
At the beginning of the court year, there were 307 judges in office. By the end of the year, there were 323, leaving only 25 vacancies.

Despite the increase in judges, there was a small decline in the amount of judge time within the trial courts, largely due to the timing of filling judgeship vacancies. The chart below shows a decrease of 2.6% in the amount of judicial resources in the trial courts, compared to a 3.9% increase the year before. Only the Civil and General Equity calendars had an increase in judicial resources available; during 1984, almost 40% of total trial court judicial resources went to Civil and General Equity.

Criminal experienced a 6% decline in judicial resources, so that 29% of all trial court judicial strength was devoted to Criminal. Together, Civil, Criminal and General Equity required nearly 70% of all judicial resources, though they amounted to only 14% of all trial court dispositions (at the vicinage level).

DISTRIBUTION OF JUDGESHIPS
As of June 30, 1983 and 1984

	Judges In Office		Vacancies		Total Authorized	
	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
Supreme Court	7	7	0	0	7	7
Appellate Div.	21	21	0	0	21	21
Superior Court	271	287	31	21	302	308
Tax Court	8	8	4	4	12	12
Total	307	323	35	25	342	348

JUDICIAL DISTRIBUTION BY TRIAL COURT CALENDAR
1983 - 1984

	1983*	1984	% Change	% of Total
Criminal	73.2	68.8	-6.0	28.9
Civil/Gen. Equity	91.8	93.4	1.7	39.3
Dissolution	28.2	26.9	-4.6	11.3
Family**	29.7	29.0	-2.4	12.2
Special Civil	21.1	19.6	-7.1	8.3
Total	244.0	237.7	-2.6	100.0

* 1983 Court Year 9/1/82 - 8/31/83

** Includes Juvenile Delinquency, JINS, Non-Dissolution, Special Family and Domestic Violence cases.

The work of the judges on the several calendars varies considerably among the calendars. The table below shows the number of motions and trials per judge during the 1984 court year. There were 847 motions and 56 trials (including partial trials) per judge sitting on Civil and General Equity during 1984.

On Criminal, there were 658 motions and 41 trials. These figures are above the comparable 1983 figures; for example, in Criminal, the number of motions per judge increased by 26%, and the number of trials went up by 17%.

MOTIONS AND TRIALS PER JUDGE 1984

	Contested Motions	Uncontested Motions	Total Motions	Jury Trials	Non-Jury Trials	Partial Trials	Total Trials
Civil/G. Equity	375	472	847	21	19	16	56
Criminal	370	288	658	32	4	5	41
Dissolution	732	233	964	0	319*	0	319*
Special Civil	356	610	966	11	2,441	222	2,674

* 1984 data for Dissolution includes only trial to completion, no Jury/Non-Jury breakdown, so assumed to be all non-jury.

Clearly, 1984 was a productive year in the New Jersey courts as measured by these overall data. Clearing the calendar for five consecutive years, reducing the number of cases pending and the size of the backlog, and increasing the productivity of the judges both in the terms of overall dispositions per judge and in terms of motions and trials per judge would each by themselves represent good achievements.

Yet the judges and support staff in New Jersey achieved every one of them, and more, during 1984. The rest of the annual report will develop these and other accomplishments in more detail.

Focus

A restored courtroom in the old Hudson County Courthouse.

CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT

More than 400 people, including the newly appointed Presiding Judges, Civil Division, Superior Court, gathered at Middlesex County College on June 15 for the 1984 Judicial Conference on Civil Case Management and Procedure to hear and discuss proposals for improving the process that governs more than half of all trial court cases.

A 39-member Supreme Court Committee, chaired by Associate Justice Sidney Schreiber, has been analyzing each aspect of civil case processing from filing to disposition, including pleadings, discovery and motions.

In announcing the formation of the Committee in 1983, Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz said, "The volume and diversity of these cases is such that we can no longer follow the same procedures in all cases regardless of their subject matter or complexity. We must move in the direction of tailoring procedures to fit the nature of the case, and we need to obtain more information earlier in the process so we can more effectively manage the case."

The Committee's differentiated case management approach rejects the traditional principles that all cases should be subject to the same procedures and that the oldest cases should be heard first. It is based on the premise that some cases need more judicial management attention, while other cases can and should move quickly through the system without taking their place behind a long line of complex cases with many defendants and intricate fact patterns.

A careful in-court screening mechanism to divert cases to different procedural tracks depending on their content, is an essential component of the differentiated approach. The Committee's proposed blueprint for future civil case management was discussed June 15 and will be considered by the Supreme Court.

The Civil Division Presiding Judges, appointed by the Chief Justice effective May 1, along with Assignment Judge will play a key management role in implementation of any new programs and procedures as a result of the Judicial Conference and Supreme Court approval.

MUNICIPAL COURT TASK FORCE

Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz appointed the Supreme Court Task Force on the Improvement of Municipal Courts to examine the operations of New Jersey's 35 year-old municipal court system, and make recommendations that respond to modern conditions within the existing structure. The recommendations will be the topic of the 1985 Judicial Conference.

The 531 municipal courts, operating essentially under procedures established when they were created in 1948, currently handle 5 million cases annually. (All other State courts together handle a total of 730,000 cases annually.)

The 41-member Task Force is chaired by Associate Justice Robert L. Clifford, and represents a broad cross section of individuals including judges, lawyers, State and local elected officials, court administrators and private citizens. The Task Force is scheduled to begin its work this month.

The Committee will focus on traffic violations, which represent 60% of all municipal cases; standards for court support service; general case processing techniques and the development of performance and service evaluation methods to ensure accountability.

"More citizens have contact with the municipal courts than any other part of the judicial system, and it is not without its critics," said the Chief Justice. "There has been a staggering increase in the municipal caseload over the years, including cases involving new laws placed under municipal jurisdiction. The system cannot keep up with the burden. Despite the best efforts of municipal judges and court personnel, backlog problems are compounded by a lack of modern technology in processing and by a lack of coordination between the individual courts. Creation of the Task Force represents a commitment to analyze these and other problems, and find solutions that will ensure maximum efficiency and a high quality of justice in the lower courts."

The Municipal Courts disposed of 4,234,553 cases in this court year; however, 5,160,506 new cases were filed during the year. This contrasts with the rest of the state court system, which has cleared the calendar, that is, disposed of more cases than were filed in a given year.

Municipal Courts have jurisdiction over: motor vehicle and traffic violations; (in 1982, parking violations represented 62% of all municipal court cases), ordinance violations; disorderly and petty disorderly persons offenses; certain penalty enforcement actions, such as fish and game and navigation violations; specified criminal offenses and probable cause hearings in indictable offenses. Recent additions to the court's jurisdiction have included the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act; the Refund Policy Disclosure Act, involving retailers posting of information for consumers; moped violations for persons under 17; and increased collection responsibilities under the Crime Victims Compensation Act.

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM

New Jersey's unique, experimental, intermediate form of punishment, the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) takes selected offenders serving State prison sentences and places them under strict supervision in the community. The program was developed jointly by the executive and judicial branches as a method of easing prison overcrowding, and testing the value of intensive supervision for selected offenders as a means of rehabilitation.

The program accepted its first participants in September, 1983. As of the end of the 1984 court year, a total of 158 participants were enrolled in ISP and under the supervision of ISP officers. This group was selected from more than 1100 applications received.

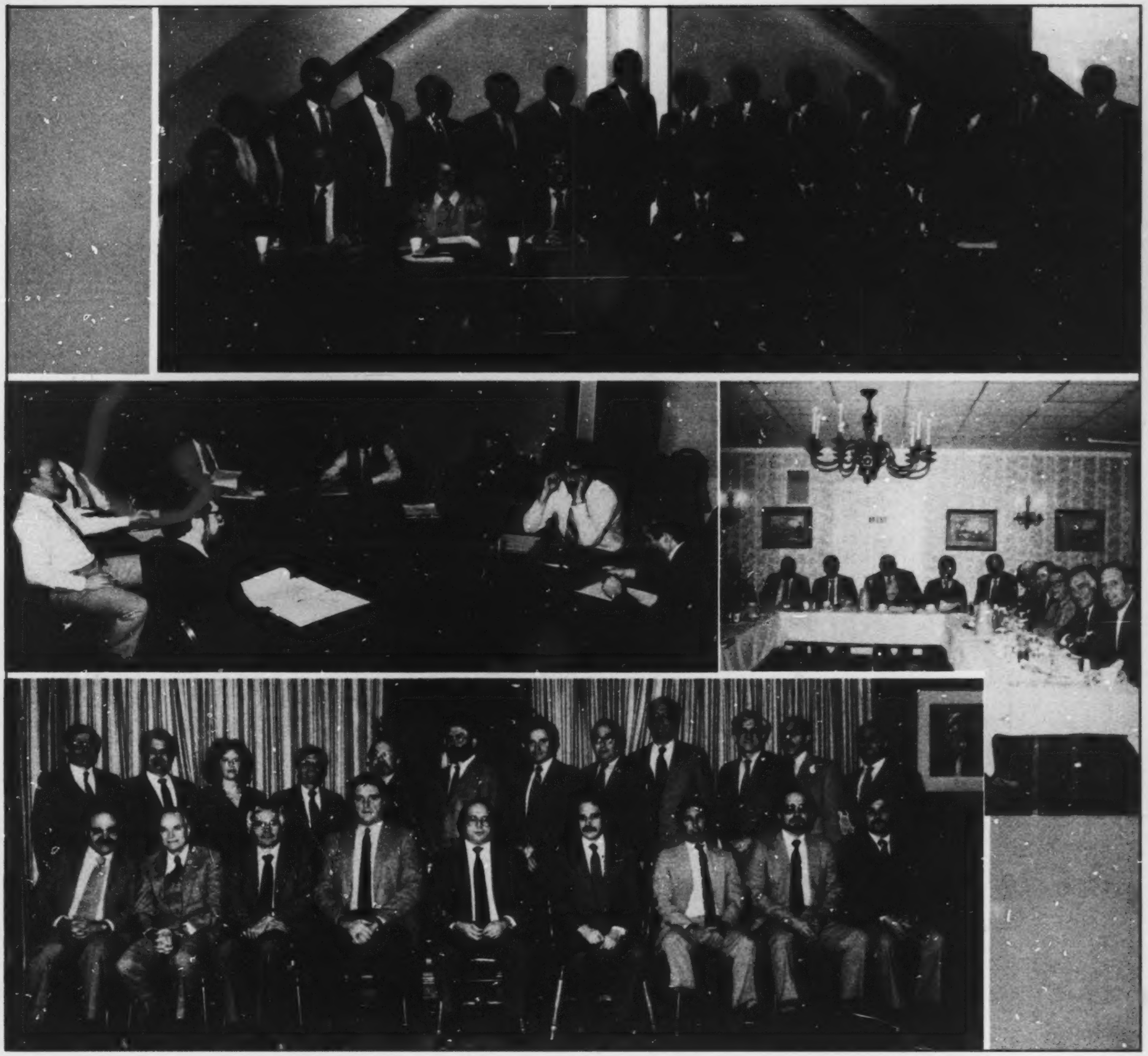
Superior Court Judges Theodore Z. Davis, William F. Harth and John A. Marzulli serve on the ISP Resentencing Panel, which makes the final decision on whether an offender is permitted to participate in the program. Prior to appearance before the Panel the offender must undergo a vigorous screening and review process.

ISP applications, in both English and Spanish, the initial step in an intensive screening process, are distributed to State-sentenced prisoners in county jails and State prisons and made available to offenders at sentencing. Offenders convicted of murder, robbery, sex offenses, or those serving a mandatory minimum sentence are not eligible to apply for ISP. No application may be submitted until after at least 30 days of incarceration, but no more than 60 days. The program is effective for persons sentenced to State prisons on or after June 1.

The approach used in the ISP application process is unique in that the offender must accept responsibility for the crime, identify the problem that contributed to commission of the crime, develop his own plan for the future, with heavy emphasis on employment or employment-related training, and obtain a community sponsor who will assist him in meeting the goals of the plan. Applications are rigorously screened and judicial, law enforcement and probation staff involved in the case, as well as the crime victim, are consulted before an individual application is considered by the three-member ISP Screening Board made up of the Director of ISP, a representative of the Department of Corrections and a citizen member.

If the Screening Board approves the offender's plan, the application is sent to the Resentencing Panel for its consideration. If the Panel approves, the offender is resentenced to ISP for an initial 90-day period, which may be extended an additional 90 days if the offender has performed satisfactorily under the terms of the conditional release. During that second 90-day period, the Panel will conduct a hearing and may suspend the original prison sentence on the condition that the offender continues to perform satisfactorily in ISP. If, at any time, an individual in ISP fails to perform satisfactorily, he is resentenced and returned to State prison.

ISP participants, in addition to meeting the requirements of their plan, are also required to perform at least 16 hours of community service a month, and are subject to curfews and must have contact with the ISP officer at least five times a week.



Supreme Court Committee *Highlights*

Supreme Court Committee on Extrajudicial Activities (top left, clockwise), Municipal Court Task Force, Criminal Practice Committee and Judicial Performance Committee.

COMPUTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This is a Supreme Court Committee chaired by Justice Stewart Pollock composed of judges, court professionals at all levels, a member of the Bar and representatives of the private sector having unique expertise in the field of automation.

The Committee meets quarterly and had the following accomplishments during Fiscal 1984:

- Adoption of the Master Plan for Computerization of the New Jersey Courts.
- Approval of an implementation strategy including creation of the Judiciary Data Center.
- Review and discussion of computer communications networking options in the restructured AT&T environment.
- Set forth preliminary policy guidelines for Municipal Court computerization. These policies were restricted to technical matters.

The Committee plans to move into the following areas in 1985: security and privacy of data; participation of the New Jersey Bar in court information systems; State and local financing of automation; and review of statewide policy matters submitted by user groups of general application area: Family, Municipal, Civil and Criminal.

TASK FORCE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS

The Task Force on Women in the Courts, appointed by Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz in 1982, represented the first effort by a state court system to examine itself, identify gender bias, and develop education programs on the subject.

The 31-member Task Force, chaired by Superior Court Judge Marilyn Loftus, includes trial and appellate judges, lawyers, law school professors, other educators and private citizens.

The Task Force defined gender bias as a predisposition or tendency to think about and behave toward people on the basis of their sex, reflecting stereotypical beliefs about the "true nature" or "proper roles" for the sexes rather than making an independent evaluation of each individual's abilities, life experiences and aspirations.

To gather information, questionnaires were distributed to lawyers through the New Jersey Law Journal, and Task Force members met with bar groups to review research on the subject. The Task Force, in its first year report, made recommendations on selected substantive law areas and courtroom interaction.

The Task Force produced a 30-minute videotape which was presented at the 1984 Judicial College workshop on Women in the Courts. The tape and report have received national attention, and the Task Force has been cited as a model for similar committees starting in other states across the nation.

ADVISORY BOARD FOR PROBATION

The 21-member Advisory Board for Probation was appointed in response to a recommendation of the 1982 Judicial Conference on Probation. The Board is an independent advisor to the Supreme Court on probation matters.

The Board is chaired by Horace J. DePodwin of the Rutgers Graduate School of Management and is composed of members drawn from private industry, academic and the public sector.

In its first year, the Board has divided itself into four committees to address specific issues identified by the Supreme Court. The four committees are examining training for probation officers, the establishment of local advisory boards, innovative probation projects, and performance measurement.

COMMITTEE ON EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTIVITIES

The Committee on Extrajudicial Activities was appointed by the Supreme Court to reevaluate the New Jersey Supreme Court's traditionally restrictive position toward outside activities of judges. The Committee is charged to review New Jersey's traditional approach and to recommend to the Supreme Court what standards or rules should determine permissible activities for New Jersey judges outside of their strictly judicial functions, and procedures to effect such standards or rules.

The Committee is chaired by retired Appellate Division Judge Baruch A. Seidman and has 23 members including retired Justices of the Supreme Court, judges and laypersons.

JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE

The Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Performance chaired by Justice Alan B. Handler has concluded its first phase in the pilot counties of Camden, Monmouth, Middlesex and Union. The objectives of the program are the improvement of the quality and level of performance of judges, the identification of judicial education needs, the more effective assignment and use of judges within the judicial system, and the improved assessment of the qualifications of judges nominated for reappointment. The Committee has engaged the services of an expert from the Educational Testing Service to assist it in fine tuning the instruments and modifying the program to ensure its scientific methodology and the reliability of judicial performance data collected. The Committee will be issuing its second interim report to the Supreme Court. As a result of the success of the Committee's initial findings, it is anticipated that the second interim report will recommend that the program be implemented on a regular basis statewide during early 1985.

CHILD PLACEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The 49-member Child Placement Advisory Council advises the Supreme Court, Legislature and Governor on matters relating to the out-of-home placement of children in New Jersey. During the year, the Council issued an annual report which among other things recommended several amendments to the Child Placement Review Act. The Legislature adopted legislation in conformity with the Advisory Council's recommendations. The Advisory Council also was involved in the preparation of new forms, directives and training relating to implementation of the Child Placement Review Act.

SPEEDY TRIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Committee sets policies and coordinates activities of the Speedy Trial Program, which began in 1981, and continues to operate to reduce delays in criminal cases. The Committee includes judges, prosecutors and court staff working together on management techniques that reduce delay. Since 1981, the time to disposition in criminal cases has been reduced from a year to seven months.

Based on the success of the 1982 grant program to reduce backlog, the Legislature approved an expanded grant program for fiscal year 1985. Backlog and delay-reduction programs in 12 counties were approved by the Committee to receive funding. Several of the programs incorporate early prosecutorial screening, early case management and pre-indictment disposition procedures. The county programs are to begin in November, 1984 and will be monitored by the Committee so that other counties can consider duplicating successful programs.

In 1984, the Committee also undertook a review of the interval from disposition to sentencing.

The study led to authorization of a pilot program in Middlesex where offenders convicted of third and fourth degree victimless crimes and welfare frauds are sentenced on the same day judgment is entered. The Simultaneous Sentencing Program was made possible by improved management techniques which provide the judge with presentencing information in a report which is developed during the pendency of the case. Based on the success of the Simultaneous Sentencing Pilot Program, the program will be expanded to other counties.

YOUTH SERVICES/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION

The State Youth Services/Community Involvement Commission, co-chaired by Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz and Attorney General Irwin I. Kimmelman, completed its third year of operation in 1984. The Commission was designed to mobilize citizens, youth workers, educators, law enforcement officials and other community groups to fight juvenile delinquency problems at the local, county and state levels, and improve coordination of services to troubled youths. In addition to the State Commission, commissions have been established in 18 of the 21 counties.

Working together, this cross-section of community interests has increased public awareness and involvement in the identification and resolution of juvenile justice problems. Third year accomplishments include:

- "Probationfields", a multi-governmental project involving state, county, and local agencies in the development, funding, and administration of a juvenile offenders program.

- the "Youth Advocacy Project", another multi-agency endeavor that attempts to find and recommend alternative placement for juveniles who are being committed to correctional facilities.

- "Essex County Recreation Project" consists of ten Essex County organizations who have joined together to share programs, facilities and resources in order to help "Kids at Risk" through recreational opportunities.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

The Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct, chaired by retired Justice Mark A. Sullivan, was formed by the Supreme Court in 1974 to review allegations of unethical or improper judicial conduct. Members are appointed to two-year terms by the Court and include practicing attorneys and public members.

The Committee investigates and adjudicates complaints against Superior Court, Tax Court, and municipal court judges. When the Committee finds that there has been no improper conduct, it dismisses the complaint. If the Committee finds that there has been improper judicial conduct but that the conduct was minor in nature and not likely to recur, it may dismiss the complaint with a private letter of admonition or caution to the judge in question. If, however, the Committee determines on the basis of a formal hearing that a judge has engaged in improper conduct of a serious nature, the Committee recommends to the Supreme Court that the judge be publicly reprimanded or that removal proceedings be instituted. Only the Supreme Court may actually issue a public reprimand or remove a judge from office.

During the 1983-1984 year, the Committee received a total of 99 new cases. As a result of presentments previously filed by the Committee, the Supreme Court issued a private letter of reprimand to one judge and instituted removal proceedings regarding another judge.

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE MEDIA

This 27-member Committee is chaired by Superior Court Judge Ralph V. Martin and includes judges, lawyers and representatives of the media.

During the court year, the Committee assisted the Rutgers Institute for Journalism Resources in designing a series of press-bar-bench seminars. The Institute has received a foundation grant to conduct four seminars a year for three years.

The Committee also recommended to the Court changes in the camera guidelines that would allow the use of sound muffling devices for still cameras used in the courtroom; to prohibit cameras in Municipal Court proceedings involving husband and wife type disputes and to permit cameras in Municipal Court proceedings involving motor vehicle violations by 17-year-old juveniles and moped violations involving 15-year-old and older juveniles.

CRIMINAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

The Criminal Practice Committee is composed of 30 members consisting of private attorneys, public defenders, prosecutors and judges and is chaired by Appellate Division Judge Michael Patrick King. During the 1984 court year, the Committee recommended rule changes to the Supreme Court allowing for precharge investigative detention and for search warrants to be obtained via telephone in certain cases as mandated by the Supreme Court; providing that where certain criminal code defenses are to be relied upon by defendants, the prosecutor receive notice within 30 days of entry of the initial plea; making clear that the court rules require that a complaint be filed by a private citizen before being accepted by the court clerk in all instances; allowing municipal court judges to admit persons to bail in certain circumstances; mandating that a motion for severance be made within 30 days of initial plea to indictment; and making clear when the 10 days allowable for the state to appeal a sentence begins.

CIVIL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

The Civil Practice Committee considered 27 rule amendments during the court year of which 20 were recommended for adoption. All but two were put into effect by the Supreme Court. The Committee also examined certain broad-based questions posed by the bar and the courts, and the relationship of probate matters to the Chancery Division. The rules were also examined to remove references to the obsolete Juvenile and Domestic Relations and County District Courts. The 28-member Committee, chaired by Alfred Clapp, Esq. of Newark, consists of judges and lawyers.

Some of the major rule changes were:

- Order To Show Cause Hearings, Rule 1:2-2, Rule 4:52-1 and Rule 4:67-2. The granting of temporary restraints and other interim relief in order to show cause hearings is prohibited unless prior notice is given, consent is obtained or it is shown that immediate and irreparable damage will result before informal notice can be given. The verbatim recording of these proceedings is now mandatory whenever a reporter or sound recording device is available.
- Perpetuation of Testimony, Rule 4:11-3. A court rule amendment proposed by the Committee and accepted by the Supreme Court now allows, through court order, for the taking of a deposition in any pending action to preserve testimony and for use in lieu of testimony when it appears that a witness may be unavailable at the time of trial.
- Certification of Other Actions, Rule 4:5-1. This requirement imposes a continuing obligation on each party to certify to all other parties the existence of any other pending or commenced action asserting claims arising out of the occurrence in the suit.

COMPLEMENTARY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

The 26-member Complementary Dispute Resolution Committee includes judges, lawyers, law professors, public advocate, business and public members. Associate Justice Marie L. Garibaldi is chairperson.

The Committee is charged with developing a systemwide approach in the long-range planning and evaluation of dispute resolution programs that are designed to avoid full trials and hearings by bringing the parties together in a less formal setting.

The Committee is reviewing existing programs in New Jersey and elsewhere. During the year, the Committee designed the auto negligence arbitration pilot programs in Burlington and Union Counties and developed the statewide auto arbitration rules to implement the statutory program. The Committee is also planning an experiment in custody mediation in Camden County in conjunction with Hahnemann University, an experiment with neighborhood dispute resolution committees, made up of citizens, to hear cases referred by Municipal Court Judges and a comprehensive Justice Center Project in Burlington County which is designed to provide a range of dispute resolution options within one central location. The Committee has established four subcommittees as follows: Civil Court Program; Family Court Program; Municipal Court Program; and the Burlington Comprehensive Justice Center Program.

MUNICIPAL COURT COMMITTEE

The Municipal Court Committee, chaired by Municipal Court Judge Frederick C. Schneider III, is responsible for reviewing rules and procedures in the municipal courts. During the 1984 court year, the Committee made the following recommendations, which were approved by the Supreme Court.

- amendment to Rule 3:26-2 authorizing the Municipal Court Judges to admit to bail persons charged with robbery and aggravated assault constituting a second or third degree crime.
- adoption of a policy to permit Municipal Courts to close its books on outstanding VCCB penalties after two years from the date of the imposition if all reasonable attempts to collect have been unsuccessful, to be accomplished in conjunction with the Violent Crimes Compensation Board.
- adoption of a proposed Uniform Statewide Commitment Order and circulation of the proposed form to Assignment Judges, Sheriffs and Clerks for their comments and suggestions.

EVIDENCE RULES COMMITTEE

The Committee, chaired by Appellate Division Judge Theodore I. Botter, was appointed to review the present New Jersey Rules of Evidence and to consider adapting the Federal Rules of Evidence to State practice. During the past court year, the Committee completed its initial review of the two sets of evidence rules and started drafting a final report containing recommendations for the Supreme Court. It is expected that the Committee report will shortly be completed and submitted to the Supreme Court.

SPECIAL CIVIL PART COMMITTEE

The Special Civil Part Committee, chaired by Superior Court Judge Donald W. deCordova, consists of judges, lawyers and a court clerk. During the 1983-84 court year, the Committee joined with members of the Civil Practice Committee to form a joint subcommittee to deal specifically with procedural matters raised as a result of the merger of the County District Court into the Superior Court. The Committee recommended that the State statutes be reviewed and references to the obsolete County District Court be changed to reflect the new Special Civil Part.

The Committee did not recommend any changes to the New Jersey Court Rules, however, several amendments were examined, including leaving to the discretion of the courts the decision whether or not to hold proof hearings in motor vehicle cases.

Other matters decided by the Committee include the following: no charge should be required to restore a civil matter from inactive to active status since no court orders are involved; cases should be scheduled prior to the expiration of the mandatory discovery period so that no attorney is compelled to begin a trial if there is legitimate discovery outstanding. Aid for pro se claimants was provided by the Committee which directed the courts of the Special Civil Part to aid successful small claims litigants in locating debtors' assets. Also, a wage execution form and computation worksheet were developed as an aid to small claims litigants.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS

The Advisory Committee on Bar Admissions was established by court rule in 1981 following a recommendation of a committee chaired by retired Justice Nathan Jacobs to evaluate the bar examination and bar admission requirements.

The Committee is chaired by Superior Court Judge Florence R. Peskoe and has 21 members including judges and lawyers. Twelve of those members serve ex officio -- five Bar Examiners, three New Jersey law school deans, the Chairman of the Committee on Character, the President of the New Jersey State Bar Association, the President of the Garden State Bar Association and the Director of Legal Services.

During the 1983-84 court year, the Committee considered and reported on such matters as admission by motion (without examination) of out-of-state attorneys, restructuring the Skills Training Course, salaries of Bar Examiners and Readers, aspects of the bar examination and a statement informing the public of the work done by the Committee on Character.

UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW COMMITTEE

To help insure that legal services are performed by qualified practitioners, the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee entertains complaints concerning the practice of law by unlicensed persons. The Committee also renders advisory opinions which are published as guidance to the bar.

The Committee, which is chaired by Harry C. Peterson, Esq., has 22 members, two of whom are non-attorneys. During the court year, the Committee opened 28 new files and closed 13.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

The Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics answers inquiries from members of the bar concerning the propriety of proposed conduct. The Committee publishes formal opinions on many of these inquiries in the New Jersey Law Journal. In additon, the Committee issues private letters of guidance. Once published, these opinions are binding on future practice unless revised by the Supreme Court on appeal.

The Committee has 18 members of whom 3 are non-attorneys. The Committee is chaired by Everett M. Scherer, Esq., who has been Chairman since its inception in 1963.

During the court year, the Committee opened 64 inquiries and published 17 opinions. In addition, 36 inquiries were handled through private letter opinions or were withdrawn at the request of the inquirer.

MUNICIPAL COURT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The recently established Municipal Court Education Committee chaired by Municipal Court Judge David A. Keyko, developed a number of educational programs for municipal court judges during the 1984 court year, including the Annual Judges Conference in October, 1983 which provided a workshop format for the judges and the Orientation Seminar for New Municipal Court Judges in March of 1984. The Committee has also developed a Benchbook for Municipal Court Judges to assist them in their court duties and a Title 39 booklet is also being developed to codify the current traffic laws in one volume. The Committee is also planning to revise the curriculum for the municipal court clerk's course and assisting with the development of a Procedures Manual for the clerks. The Committee will also be providing guidance in the development of topics for the new vicinage level training programs for municipal judges.

COMMITTEE ON OPINIONS

Under Rule 1:36-2, the Chief Justice appoints this committee, which currently includes retired Justice Haydn Proctor, Chairman, retired Justice Mark A. Sullivan, and retired Appellate Division Judge William G. Bischoff.

The Committee reviews all formal written opinions, except those of the Supreme Court (and those Appellate Division opinions decided by two judges, rather than a three-judge part), and determines which should be published. During the year, the Court restructured the operation of the Committee to allow two members to approve publication of a decision. A third member would only be called on to participate as a tiebreaker, or as a substitute in the absence or disqualification of one of the other two. The Supreme Court sets appropriate standards to guide the Committee in determining which opinions should be approved for publication. The following is the Committee report for the court year.

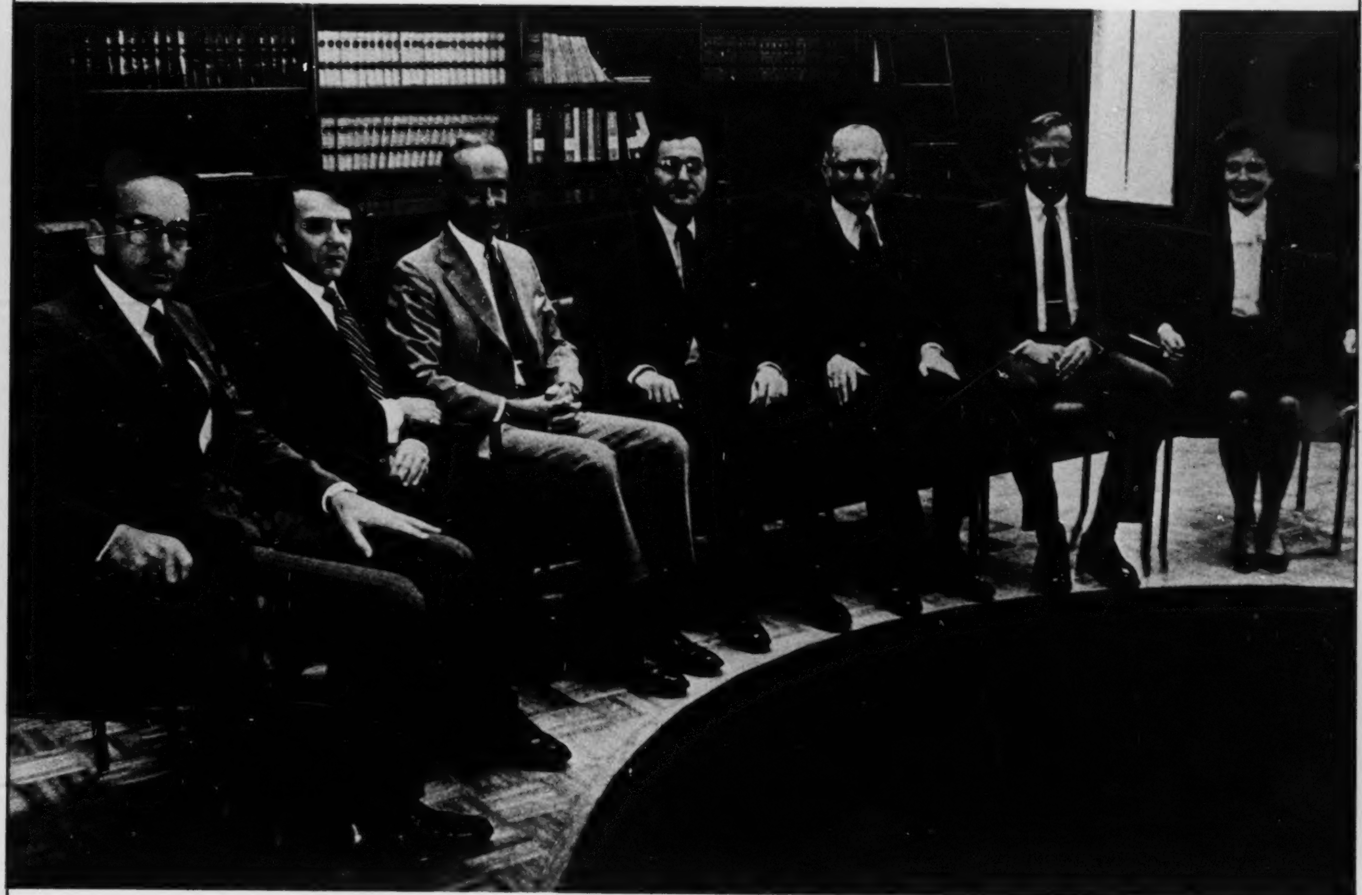
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON OPINIONS

	Sept. 1, 1983 to Aug. 31, 1984	Sept. 1, 1982 to Aug. 31, 1983	Sept. 1, 1981 to Aug. 31, 1982
Opinions Reviewed by the Committee			
Appellate Division (three-judge)	1,029	990	992
Trial Courts	329	351	378
Total	1,358	1,341	1,370
Opinions Approved For Publication			
Appellate Division	258 (25.1%)	214 (21.6%)	237 (23.9%)
Trial Courts	105 (31.9%)	123 (35.0%)	152 (40.2%)
Total	363 (26.7%)	337 (25.1%)	389 (28.4%)

* Appellate Division Two-Judge Opinions (reviewed by not recommended) 2,475.

	Sept. 1, 1983 to Aug. 31, 1984	Sept. 1, 1982 to Aug. 31, 1983	Sept. 1, 1981 to Aug. 31, 1982
Total Opinions Published			
Supreme Court	103	93	120
Appellate Division	258	241	237
Trial Courts	105	123	152
Total	466	457	509

* The Committee on Opinions can publish two-judge opinions only in cases where the opinion below is published, or if specifically recommended for publication by the Part with approval of the Presiding Judge for Administration.



Supreme Court

Left to right: Associate Justices Daniel J. O'Hern, Alan B. Handler and Robert L. Clifford; Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz; Associate Justices Sidney M. Schreiber, Stewart G. Pollock and Marie L. Garibaldi.

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is New Jersey's court of last resort. Its seven members are appointed for seven-year terms and, upon reappointment, serve until age 70.

The Supreme Court's authority also extends to the rules of practice and the admission and discipline of attorneys and judges. In that regard, it makes the final decisions in disciplinary matters.

Cases arrive at the Supreme Court by way of direct appeals, petitions for certification, interlocutory applications and, in a very few instances, petitions for the exercise of original jurisdiction.

JURISDICTION

Appeals as of Right

Appeals to the Supreme Court are permitted, as of right, in limited circumstances. There must be a substantial constitutional question not previously passed upon by an appellate court, a dissent in the Appellate Division, or an imposition of a sentence of death to invoke the Court's appeal jurisdiction.

The Rules of Court limit appeals based on dissents to the issues raised in the dissenting opinion. This often results in matters having appeals as of right only as to part of a case.

The 1984 term saw the filing of additional appeals as of right under New Jersey's death penalty statute. Under the Rules, a defendant who has been sentenced to death has a right of direct appeal to the Supreme Court, bypassing normal Appellate Division review.

The overwhelming majority of cases in which an appeal as of right is filed claim the presence of substantial constitutional questions. Of the 282 appeals dismissed by the Court in 1984, most were handled in a summary manner because the Court found no substantial questions within the meaning of the rules and relevant case law.

The substantial decrease from 445 to 274 in the filing of notices of appeals as of right can be explained by a Third Circuit Court of Appeals' opinion that disapproved a United States District Court decision that the federal courts would hear habeas corpus applications only on those questions that had been appealed to the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Petitioning for certification alone was insufficient under this opinion.

With the overturning of the District Court opinion in January, 1984 the number of notices of appeal dropped sharply.

Petitions for Certification

Most of the parties seeking Supreme Court review of final judgments of the Appellate Division do so by petitioning for certification. Certification will be granted only if: 1) the case involves a matter of general public importance that has not been, but should be, settled by Court: 2) the question is similar to one already on appeal; 3) the decision below conflicts with another appellate decision or calls for the general supervisory powers of the Court; or 4) the interest of justice requires it.

The requirements for the grant of certification are applied strictly by the Supreme Court. Certification was granted in 8.9% of the cases presented to the Court. This represents a slight decline from the 9.6% granted in 1983.

Motions and Other Applications

The Supreme Court disposed of 1,255 motions during the 1984 term, a 6.7% increase over the prior year. These applications covered a wide range of subjects. The most frequently filed motions involved requests for leave to appeal, for stays, for extensions of time and for direct certification. In addition to litigated matters, the interlocutory application category includes petitions filed in bar admission matters.

Attorney Discipline

The Supreme Court reviews decisions and recommendations of the Disciplinary Review Board. That Board, in turn, reviews the actions taken by the various district ethics committees.

In 1984, the Supreme Court disposed of 107 disciplinary matters, up 7% from 1983.

FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Case filings (appeals, certifications, motions and disciplinaries) decreased by 95 in 1984 for a combined total of 2,891. At the same time, overall dispositions for the term amounted to 2,876, and increase of 103 over the previous year. The table below demonstrates that the Supreme Court has been subject to the same pressures of increasing workload as the rest of the court system.

FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

1980 - 1984

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Appeals					
filed	232	216	298	568	404
disposed	223	216	288	466	439
Certifications					
filed	979	986	995	1,083	1,142
disposed of	1,075	915	972	1,031	1,075
Motions					
filed	1,353	1,409	1,590	1,223	1,243
disposed of	1,384	1,366	1,679	1,176	1,255
Disciplinaries					
filed	57	71	84	112	102
disposed of	54	68	91	100	107
Total					
filed	2,621	2,682	2,967	2,986	2,891
disposed of	2,736	2,565	3,030	2,773	2,876

Please note that figures for 1980 - 1983 are based on statistics from September to August. For 1984 the reporting period is July, 1983 through June, 1984 (July and August, 1983 thereby being counted twice during the transition).

The Court's caseload of petitions for certification and motions increased in 1984. Certifications and motions also continued to lead all categories in filings and dispositions.

The steady addition of more certification filings since 1979 can generally be ascribed to the number of Appellate Division dispositions from which they come. The percentage of petitions for certification, as a percentage of Appellate Division dispositions, has remained relatively steady for the past five years.

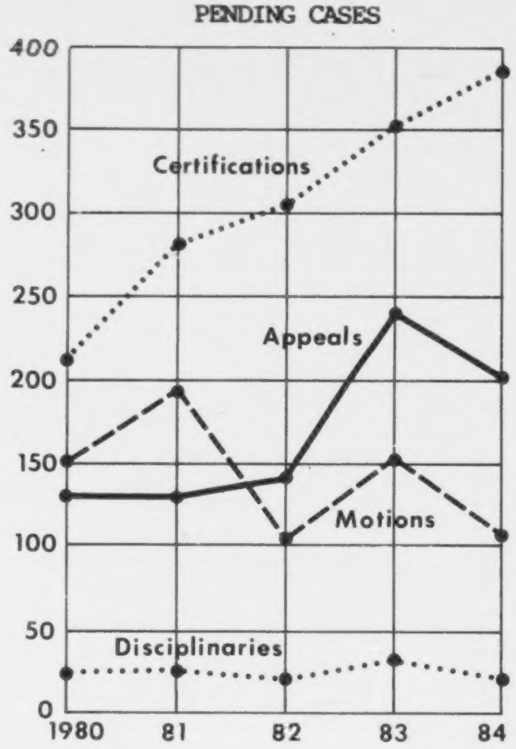
PENDING CASES

Pending cases before the Supreme Court rose in only one of four categories. There was an increase of 31 petitions for certification, leaving a total of 388 pending. Pending appeals at the end of the 1983 Court term numbered 202, down 41 or 16.8%. Disciplinaries decreased by 12 to 21. Motions pending decreased by 46 to 107.

The increase in pending certifications was the result of significant elevations in filings. These overcame a 44 case improvement in dispositions.

The following graph shows that the number of pending disciplinaries has remained rather steady.

Similarly, appeals had, until 1984, remained relatively constant. The elimination of the federal court requirement of notices of appeal as well as certification should bring that category back to prior levels.



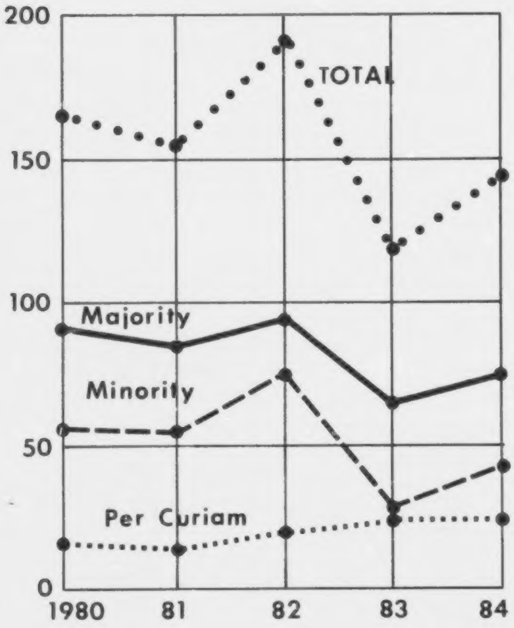
OPINIONS FILED

While considerable time and effort is expended on discretionary review matters, the opinions of the Court remain its most visible work. The Court, under the direction of the Chief Justice discusses each case at the conference following oral arguments. Opinion assignment is made by the Chief Justice if the Court is unanimous or if the Chief Justice is in the majority. In cases where the Chief Justice does not participate or is one of the members in the minority, the opinion is assigned by the senior Justice voting with the majority.

Although upward of 20 opinions may be in circulation at any given time, each Justice must be fully conversant with every opinion before the Court, whether a first or a final draft. Circulating opinions hold the highest priority at Court conferences and every effort is made to insure that the decisions of the Court are truly collegial in nature.

In 1984, the Supreme Court filed 144 opinions (majority, minority and per curiam), deciding 94 appeals and 6 disciplinaries. The number of signed majority opinions increased in 1984 by 10 to 76. Minority opinions also increased in 1984 from 29 to 44. The balance of the opinions filed were per curiam.

A comparison of five years' opinion filings (see chart) shows that the 1984 term had a significant drop in minority opinions and signed majority opinions while unsigned (per curiam) dispositions increased.


OPINIONS FILED

TIME TO DECISION

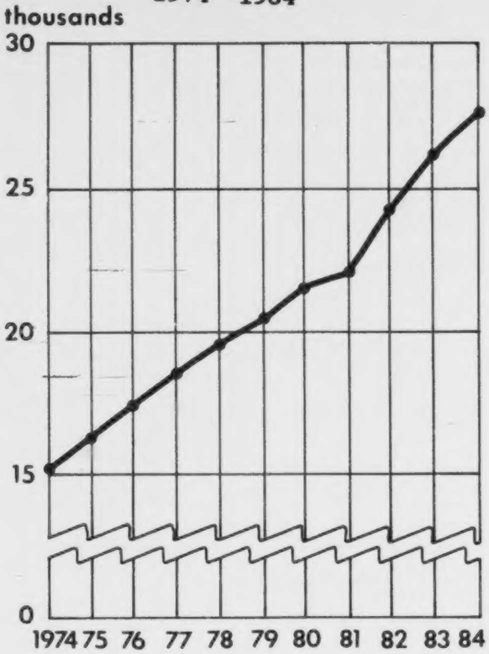
More difficult to answer than the question of what the Court decides is "how long" it takes to make that decision. Any given case can be disposed of promptly if there is a consensus on the part of the members of the Court involved. However, the decision process in a multi-member court does not, if truly collegial determinations are sought, lend itself to the immediate generation of full opinions in many cases. The complexity of the case and divergent views about the legal issues can combine to seriously affect the timing of a disposition. Nonetheless, the time it takes from the date of argument to the date of decision in the Supreme Court has remained fairly constant over the last five years. The median time in 1984 was approximately four months.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Supreme Court has constitutional responsibility for the integrity of the legal profession and the Judiciary. It exercises this responsibility through a number of offices. The increased work of this Division is a reflection not only of the growing number of attorneys in New Jersey, but also of rising public demands for high ethical standards and accountability.

The decade of the seventies produced a very large increase in the attorney population in New Jersey. In 1969 there were 10,348 members of the bar admitted to practice. That figure more than doubled by the end of fiscal year 1983 when the total attorney population reached 26,212.

NUMBER OF ATTORNEYS
1974 -1984



ADMISSION TO THE BAR

Lawyers are admitted to the bar of New Jersey only after taking a bar examination. The New Jersey examination is given in February and July to coincide with the national administration of the Multistate Bar Examination. The essay examination is prepared and graded by the Board of Bar Examiners and administered by the Clerk of the Supreme Court serving in his capacity as Secretary to the Board and his staff.

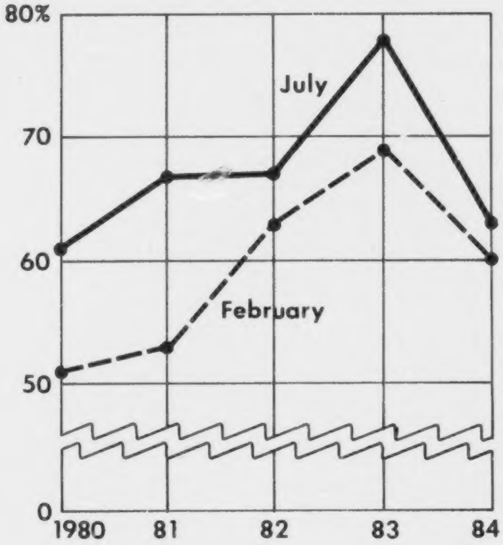
Performance on the bar examinations has continued to improve over the 1979 results, which were the poorest since 1962. The February passing rate decreased from 69% in 1983 to 61% in 1984. The July passing rate decreased from 78% in 1983 to 63% in 1984.

Passing rates for summer examinations have normally been higher because the majority of law students graduate in June and more individuals who were unsuccessful on a prior bar examination take the winter examination. The likelihood of passing declines the more often the examination is taken.

New Jersey law school graduates continue to perform better on the bar examination than those educated in other jurisdictions.

Each candidate for admission to the bar has to pass both the Multistate Bar Examination and the New Jersey essay questions. The essay questions were shortened and the design for the questions has been more varied than in the past.

BAR EXAM PASSAGE RATE



TRIAL ATTORNEY CERTIFICATION

The goals of the trial attorney certification program are to improve the quality of trial advocacy and to inform the consumer about those members of the bar who have achieved a certain level of skill, knowledge, and experience in trial representation. The Board of Trial Attorney Certification, appointed in 1979, developed program regulations and began accepting applications in 1980.

The certification process involves two steps. First, applicants must file an extensive written application in order to establish their eligibility to sit for the Board's examination. The application requires an applicant to list members of the bench or bar who can attest to the candidate's skill as a trial advocate. The form also requires detailed information on 10 substantial cases that the applicant has tried, and further requires that the applicant demonstrate continuing current involvement in trial practice by listing all cases tried or prepared for trial in the preceding three years. Finally, the applicant must demonstrate a commitment to continuing legal education by listing seminars attended or taught and by describing other educational activities in the field of trial advocacy, such as professional committee work, authorship and speeches.

Attorneys whose applications are deemed sufficient by the Board are permitted to participate in the second step of the certification process: the written examination. The separate civil and criminal examinations, administered annually, are designed to test the attorney's knowledge of trial practice, procedure and tactics.

Only those applicants who successfully complete an examination are recommended by the Board for certification by the Court.

As a result of the Board's first three annual cycles of operation, the Court, on recommendation of the Board, has certified 489 civil and 145 criminal trial attorneys. The Board has authorized 92 attorneys to sit for its 1984 civil examination and 51 to sit for its 1984 criminal examination. The examinations will be held in September.

Board certification endures for seven years, after which the attorney must apply for recertification.

Appellate Division, Superior Court

The Appellate Division Judges and Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz
at the Annual Judicial College.

SUPERIOR COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION

For most litigants, the Appellate Division of the Superior Court is the court of last resort. As New Jersey's intermediate appellate court, it processes all appeals from lower courts and state agencies. The State Constitution provides a right to appeal to the Appellate Division from final judgments of the Law and Chancery Divisions of the Superior Court. There is also a right to appeal from final orders and decisions of state agencies. In addition, interlocutory decisions of trial courts and state agencies may be reviewed by the Appellate Division if that court grants leave to appeal.

During the 1983-84 court year there were 21 judges on the Appellate Division. Each Appellate Division judge is chosen by the Chief Justice from one of the trial divisions of the Superior Court and, once appointed, usually stays for the rest of his or her career.

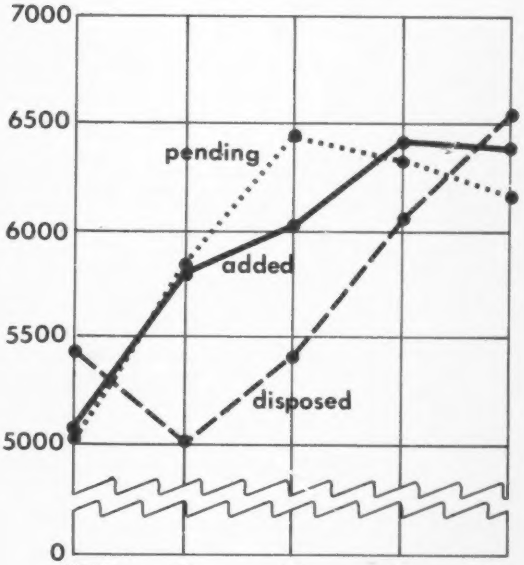
The judges sit in panels, or "parts," of three judges each. A presiding judge administers each part. The composition of the parts changes each year and a presiding judge for administration administers the entire Appellate Division. Traditionally that judge has been the most senior Appellate Division judge.

When each part sits, it generally hears between 12 and 15 appeals. Occasionally, a part considers as many as 18 or 19 appeals at a sitting. The presiding judge of each part rates the cases for difficulty and determines whether they ought to be decided by two or three judges.

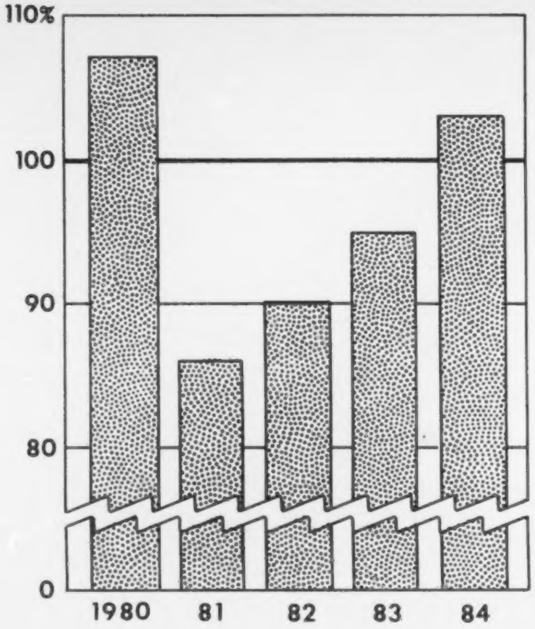
The court hears appeals without argument unless one of the parties requests argument or the court orders it. After argument, or submission without argument, the judges research, discuss and decide each case. Eventually, in most cases, a written opinion is issued. There is an exception for excessive sentence appeals handled by the Public Defender in which oral decisions are rendered from the bench and orders immediately signed and issued.

Besides the calendared cases, the court decides thousands of motions and emergent applications each year. During the summer, only one part is assigned to sit each week and the court decides only criminal cases and occasional urgent civil cases.

CASELOAD TRENDS
1980 - 1984



CALENDAR CLEARANCE
1980 - 1984



CASELOAD

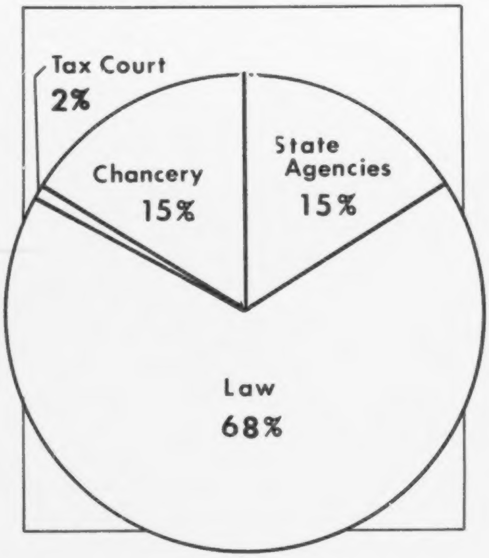
In the 1983-1984 court year 6,186 appeals were filed and 38 were remanded from the Supreme Court. Thus, the total cases added to the Appellate Division's docket was 6,224. During the previous year, 6,273 cases were filed, 37 were remanded and 108 were reinstated for a total added of 6,393.

A total of 6,262 cases were disposed of as compared with 6,393 the year before. Cases pending at the end of the year were 6,501 compared with 6,503 the year before.

SOURCES OF APPEAL

Most of the appeals decided during this court year came from the trial divisions of Superior Court. The Law Division produced 68% and the Chancery Division 15% of the appeals decided. Appeals from state agencies represented 15% and the Tax Court accounted for 2%.

SOURCES OF APPEAL



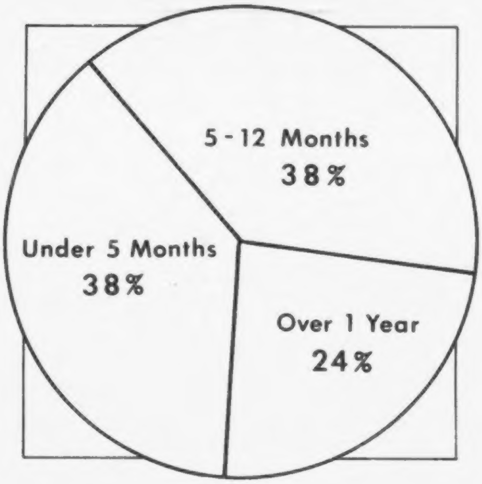
METHOD OF DISPOSITION

In this court year out of a total 6,262 cases disposed of, written opinions were issued in 3,781; summary disposition orders accounted for 523 cases. Excessive sentence cases decided by oral opinion totalled 276 cases. A total of 1,678 cases were dismissed before calendaring. The Supreme Court directly certified 4 cases.

AGE OF PENDING CASES

At the end of this court year 6,501 cases were pending. Of those 24% were more than a year old; 38% had been pending from five months to one year; and another 38% for five months or less.

AGE OF PENDING CASES



MOTIONS

In addition to the cases disposed of on the merits this year, the Appellate Division also decided 5,577 motions as compared with 5,189 the year before. This continues a steady increase during the past four years as follows:

MOTIONS DECIDED
1980 to 1984

COURT YEAR	MOTIONS FILED	MOTIONS DECIDED
1980	5,680	5,556
1981	4,840	4,740
1982	5,128	4,917
1983	5,275	5,189
1984	5,700	5,577

WORK OF JUDGES

Of the 4,580 cases the court decided this year by opinion, 3,542 were decided by two judges and the remainder were decided by three judges. The decision on how many judges ought to sit on a case is made by the presiding judge of each part in accordance with the requirements of Rule 2:13-2(b).

ISSUES RAISED ON APPEAL

For many years, the Administrative Office of the Courts kept statistics on the 60 issues most commonly raised on appeal. During the 1982-1983 court year those statistics were not kept. This year, they were.

In the five years prior to the 1982-1983 court year, the two issues most commonly raised were that a judge or state agency had made erroneous factfindings and that a defendant had received an excessive sentence.

This year there is a new issue which was raised most frequently on appeal: that a trial judge abused his discretion. Of all appeals, 33% alleged such an error. The second most commonly raised issue was, again, that a trial judge or agency had made erroneous factfindings. That was raised in 25% of all appeals filed.

The following chart shows the ten most commonly raised issues during the 1983-1984 court year.

ISSUES RAISED ON APPEAL

ISSUE	TIMES RAISED ON APPEAL	% OF APPEALS INVOLVING ISSUE
Abuse of discretion	1,528	33%
Judge or Agency's Fact-Finding Unsupported by Evidence	1,169	25%
Error in Imposing, Failing to Impose, Computing Interest Damages, Penalty, Award, Assessment	803	17%
Excessive Sentence	690	15%
Erroneous Interpretation of Law	627	13%
Erroneous Ruling on Admissibility of Evidence	469	10%
Construction of Contract	290	6%
Erroneous Jury Charge	256	6%
Evidence Insufficient to Support Jury Verdict	192	4%
Erroneous Application of Law	185	4%

REVERSAL RATE

Of all civil cases decided, 25% were reversed. Of the criminal cases decided, 13% were reversed. A total of 940 reversals were ordered: 679 civil cases and 261 criminal cases.

Two percent of the civil cases were reversed in part; 1% of the criminal cases were reversed in part. Of civil cases, 7% were modified in part; 4% of criminal cases were modified in part. Finally, 4% of civil cases and 5% of criminal cases were dismissed.

Therefore, the overall affirmance rate was 62% for civil cases, 76% for criminal cases and 68% for civil and criminal cases combined.

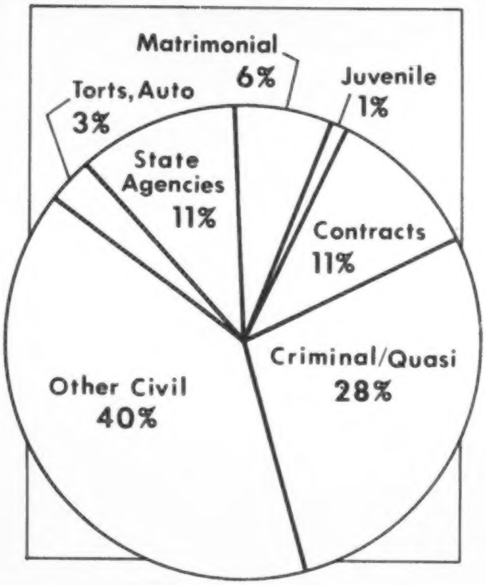
SUCCESS RATE OF ISSUES

Of the issues raised on appeal, some are successful in a much greater percentage of the appeals in which they are raised. Of course, many of those with a high success rate are not raised very frequently. This year, statistics have been kept not only on the percentage of appeals in which an issue resulted in a reversal, but on the percentage of modifications. This has changed the categories of successful issues significantly since, in the past, modifications were considered to be reversals. For example, this year, in 30% of the appeals in which it was alleged that a sentence was illegal, the court reversed on that ground. It modified in 20% of those cases.

Under prior methods of keeping statistics, we would have obtained a 50% success rate for that issue. The separation of modifications and reversals gives a more accurate picture of the success rate of issues.

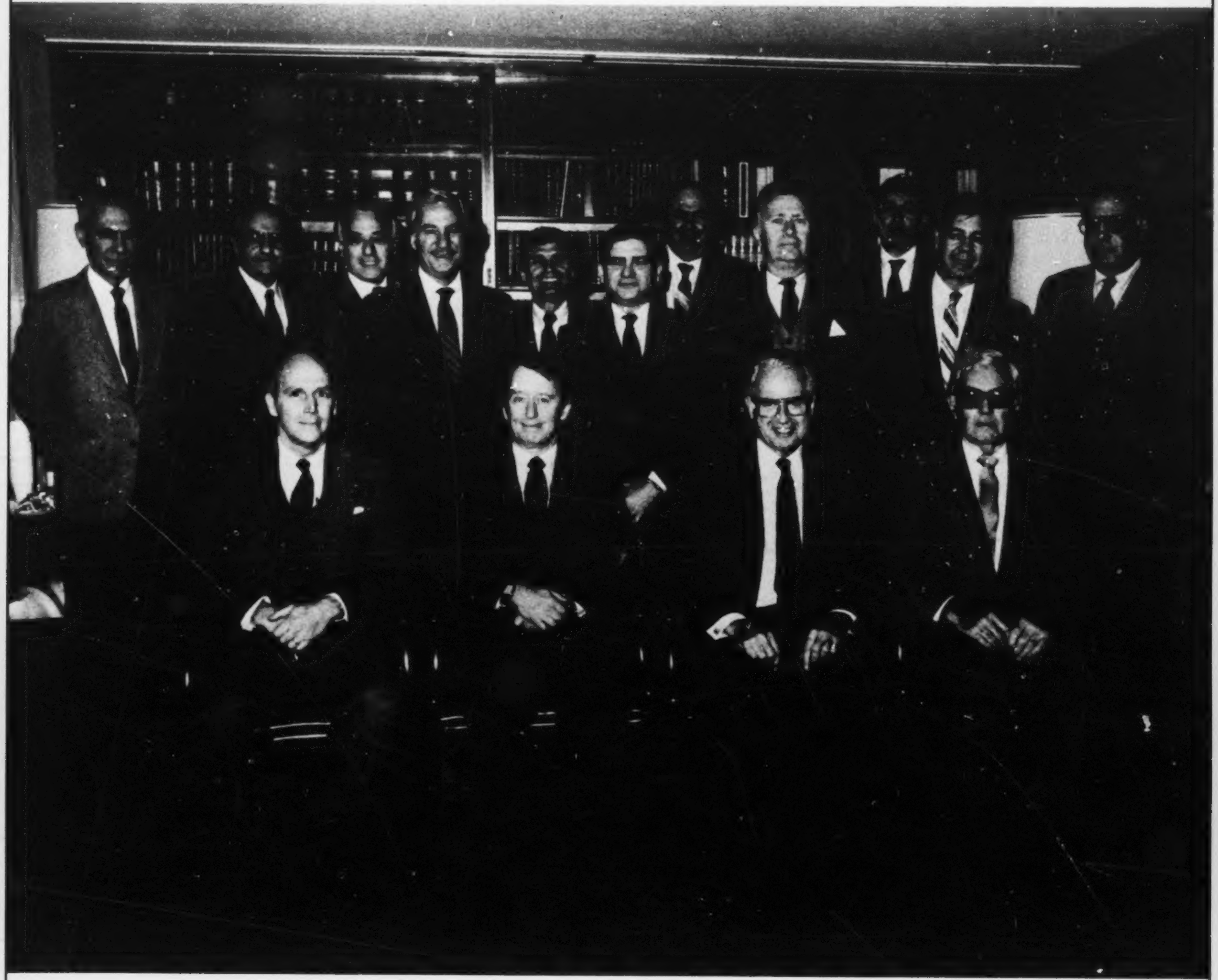
The following chart shows the five most successful issues, in terms of the percentage of times each resulted in a reversal in the cases in which it was raised.

APPEALS DECIDED
BY TYPE



SUCCESS RATE OF ISSUES

ISSUES RAISED	TIMES RAISED ON APPEAL	NO. REVERSALS ON GROUND	% OF REVERSALS ON GROUND
Plenary hearing needed	158	98	62
Legal search and seizure (raised by State)	39	23	59
Prevailing rule of law erroneous	2	1	50
Erroneous ruling on sufficiency of pleading	15	5	33
Appellate procedural rules not followed	3	1	33



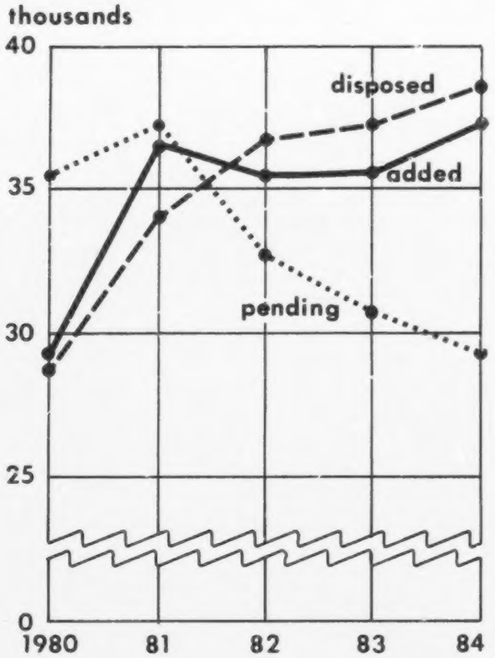
Superior Court

Superior Court Assignment Judges (seated, left to right) Robert Muir, Jr. (Morris-Sussex), Samuel D. Lenox, Jr. (Mercer), Martin L. Haines (Burlington), Arthur J. Blake (Ocean). (Standing, left to right) Herman L. Breitkopf (Middlesex), Nicholas G. Mandak (Passaic), Peter Ciolino (Bergen), I.V. DiMartino (Camden), Wilfred P. Diana (Somerset-Hunterdon-Warren), Philip A. Gruccio (Atlantic-Cape May), Samuel G. DeSimone (Gloucester-Cumberland-Salem), Burrell Ives Humphreys (Hudson), Edward W. Beglin, Jr. (Union), Nicholas Scalera (Essex) and Alvin Yale Milberg (Monmouth).

CRIMINAL

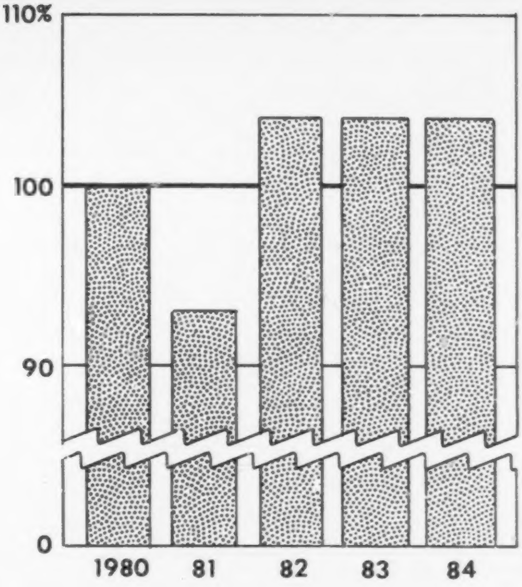
The Criminal Division handles all indictments and accusations in criminal cases, following initial filing of the complaint in Municipal Court.

CASELOAD TRENDS
1980 - 1984



- cases added have increased 28.8%
- dispositions increased 33.8%
- pending cases declined 17.3%

CALENDAR CLEARANCE
1980 - 1984



- 1984 was the third consecutive year of calendar clearance

CASES ADDED

1983	1984	% Change
35,534	37,135	4.5%

- cases added have increased in four of the last five years

MOTIONS

	1984
Contested	25,436
Uncontested	19,845
Total	45,281
% Contested	56.2%

- motions heard have increased in four of the past five years
- the proportion of criminal motions that were contested has fallen for last two years

DISPOSITIONS

1983	1984	% Change
37,095	38,640	4.2%

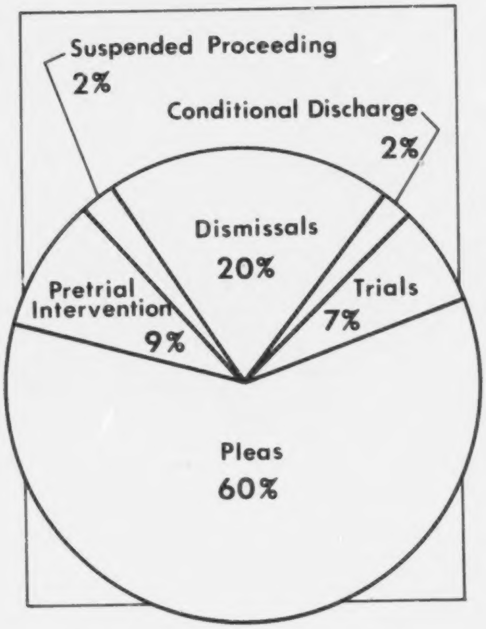
- dispositions have increased in four of the last five years

CONVICTION RATE UPON TRIAL

Court Year	# of Convictions	Conviction Rate
1984	1,616	57.9%
1983	1,682	57.7%
1982	1,825	62.8%
1981	1,633	59.3%
1980	1,542	58.8%

- Conviction rate increased in 1984
- Conviction rate has been hovering at slightly less than 60% since 1980

DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE



Compared With 1980:

- lesser percentage of trials and dismissals
- greater percentage of pleas
- PTI programs now accounting for 9% of all dispositions

HEARINGS

	1984	% of Total
Probation Violation	6,128	24.7
Extradition	807	3.2
Municipal Court Appeals	3,721	15.0
Pre-Trial Conference	14,209	57.1
Total	24,865	

CRIMINAL SENTENCING

	1982*	1983*	% Change
Persons Sentenced	18,315	18,564	1.4%
Persons Incarcerated	51%	47%	-4.0%
Percent with minimum parole ineligibility terms	40%	43%	3.0%

* Calendar year figures for sentencing under Title 2C.

- persons sentenced under Title 2C rose 25% since 1981
- percent with minimum parole ineligibility terms has increased from 27% to 43% since 1981

CRIMINAL TRIALS

	1984	% of Total
Partial	311	11.1
Completed	2,480	88.9
Total	2,791	100

- the number of Criminal trials has decreased the last two years
- however, there were 10% more trials in 1984 than 1980

CRIMINAL TRIAL LENGTH

1 day	1-3 days	3-5 days	5+ days	1984 Total
629	1,399	516	247	2,791

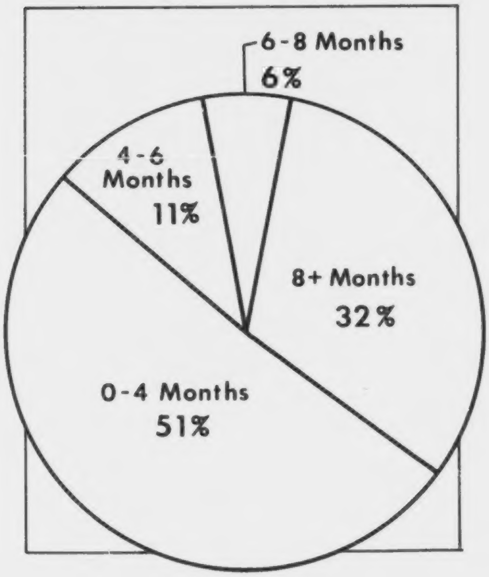
- the length of trial stayed approximately the same in 1984 as compared with 1983.
- in 1980, trials were shorter
- only 7% took more than 5 days while only 15% took 3 to 5 days

PENDING CASES

	1983	1984	% Change
Active	14,104	13,596	-3.6%
Inactive	16,760	15,763	-5.9%
Total	30,864	29,359	-4.9%

- all categories of pending cases declined in 1984
- total active pending cases declined 27% since 1980

AGE OF ACTIVE PENDING CASES

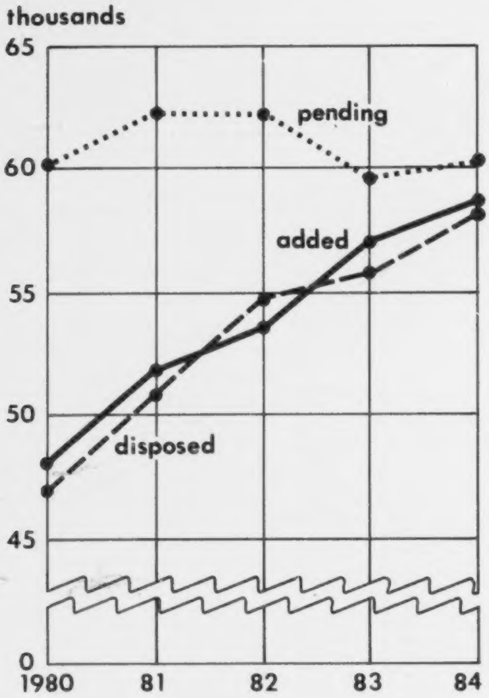


- calendar of pending cases was more current than last year. In 1983, 39% of pending cases were over six months; in 1984, 38% of pending cases were over six months.

CIVIL

The Civil Division hears cases such as contract and tort claims exceeding $5,000 and other cases involving money judgements. Claims less than this amount are heard on the Special Civil Calendar.

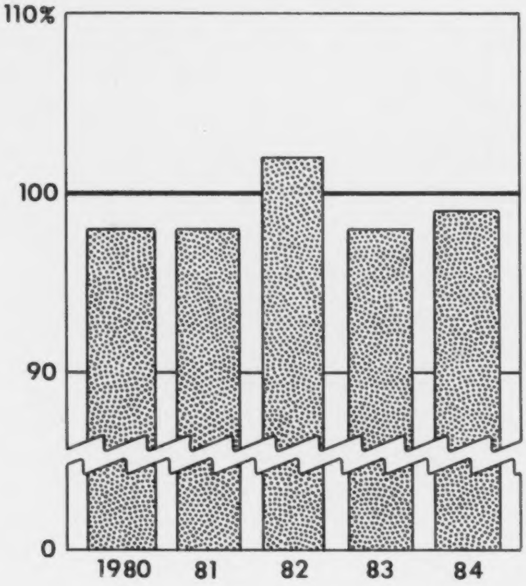
CASELOAD TRENDS
1980 - 1984



1980 - 1984

- cases added increased 22.1%
- dispositions increased 23.5%
- cases pending increased 0.3%

CALENDAR CLEARANCE
1980 - 1984



- cleared once in the last five years
- 1984 performance second best in last five years

CASES ADDED

1984	% Change
58,692	2.8%

- cases added have increased in each of the last five years

MOTIONS

	1984
Number	70,856
Per Disposition	1.2

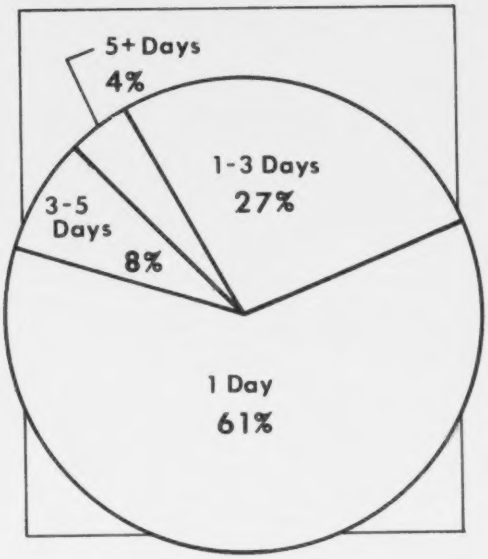
- number of motions and motions per disposition have been steadily dropping since 1981
- in 1981 there were 94,469 motions or an average of 1.9 per disposition

DISPOSITIONS

1983	1984	% Change
55,932	58,060	3.8%

- dispositions have increased for nine consecutive years

TRIAL LENGTH



- generally longer trials than five years ago, especially the proportion of trials which are 3 to 5 days and over 5 days

DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE

	1984	% of Total
Trials (Partial & Completed)	4,181	7.2
Settlements & Dismissals	52,595	90.6
Transfers to other courts	1,284	2.2
Total	58,060	100.

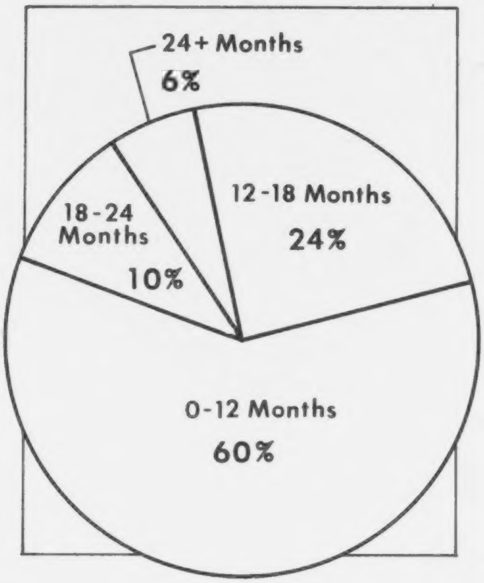
- slightly declining trial rate and concurrently increasing settlement rate during the past five years
- in 1980, trials accounted for 9.1% of all dispositions while settlements and dismissals accounted for 88.5%

PENDING CASES

	1983	1984	% Change
Active	58,414	59,012	1.0%
Inactive	1,157	1,191	2.9%
Total	59,571	60,203	1.1%

- pending cases have stayed constant for the past five years

AGE OF ACTIVE PENDING CASES

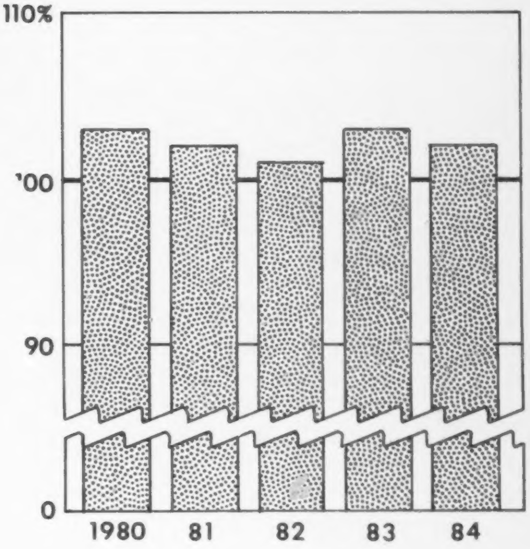


- significant reduction in the number and percentage of cases over 2 years since 1980
- in 1980, 10% of all active pending cases were over 2 years old

SPECIAL CIVIL

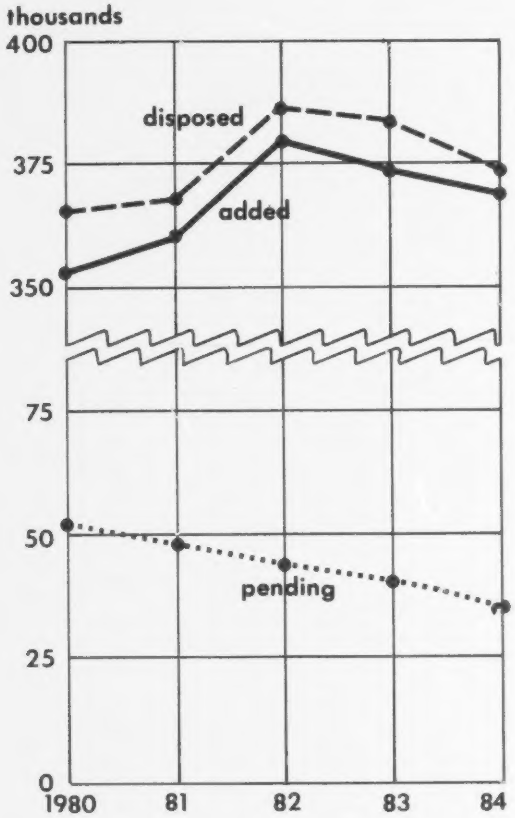
The Special Civil calendar of the Civil Division handles contract and tort claims under $5,000, landlord/tenant disputes, and small claims matters under $1,000.

CALENDAR CLEARANCE
1980 - 1984



- cleared for five consecutive years

CASELOAD TRENDS
1980 - 1984



- cases added increased 4.2%
- dispositions increased 2.3%
- pending cases declined 32.9%

CASES ADDED

1983	1984	% Change
374,461	368,639	-1.6%

- second consecutive year of decreased filings after 14 consecutive years of increases

MOTIONS

	1983
Number	18,938
Per Disposition	.05

DISPOSITIONS

	1983	1984	% Change
Automobile Negligence	11,448	9,824	-16.5%
Other Tort	5,265	5,148	-2.3%
Contract	190,907	183,563	-4.0%
Small Claims	53,229	52,088	-2.2%
Tenancy	118,031	123,489	+4.4%
Total	378,880	374,112	-1.3%

- total cases disposed of decreased for the second consecutive year after 14 consecutive years of increases

- all types of cases but tenancy showed decreases in 1984

- automobile negligence dispositions have declined by 21% since 1980

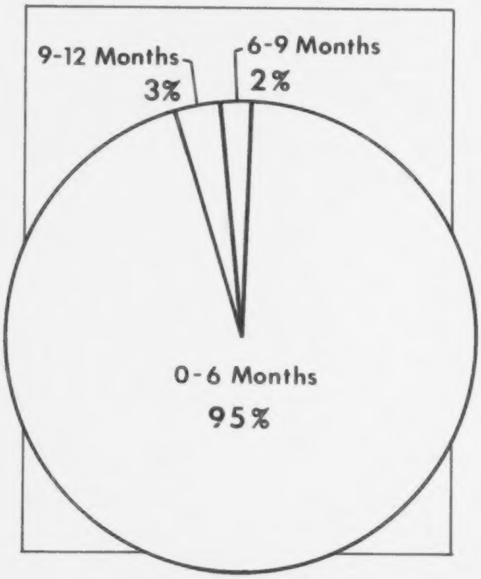
- small claims dispositions have increased by 24% since 1980

PENDING CASES

1983	1984	% Change
40,592	35,119	-13.5

- pending cases have decreased for five consecutive years

AGE OF PENDING CASES



- the percentage of cases under six months increased from 94% to 95% during 1984

- in 1980, only 92% of pending cases were under six months

AUTOMOBILE NEGLIGENCE CASES FILED
1980-1984

	CIVIL	SPECIAL CIVIL (formerly County District Court)
1980	20,833	14,222
1981	24,161	12,482
1982*	25,919	13,085
1983	25,731	10,980
1984	27,451	9,375

* Beginning in 1982, the maximum allowable award for Special Civil cases increased from $3,000 to $5,000.

OFFICE OF FORECLOSURE

The Office of Foreclosure works closely with the Chancery Division of Superior Court, its judges and respective vicinage personnel. Extablished by court rule, the Office is responsible for the entry of judgments and orders in uncontested foreclosure actions. It issues writs of execution and possession in foreclosure matters, and answers inquiries from the public, other governmental divisions and attorneys.

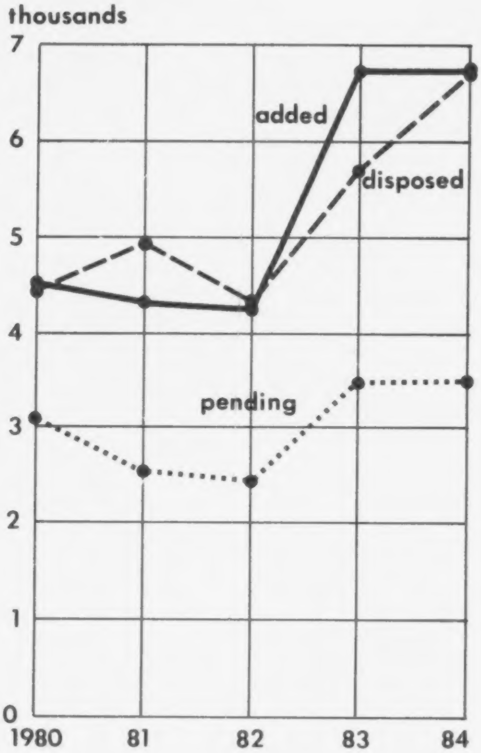
FORECLOSURE

cases added	14,416
cases disposed	14,035
cases pending	98

GENERAL EQUITY

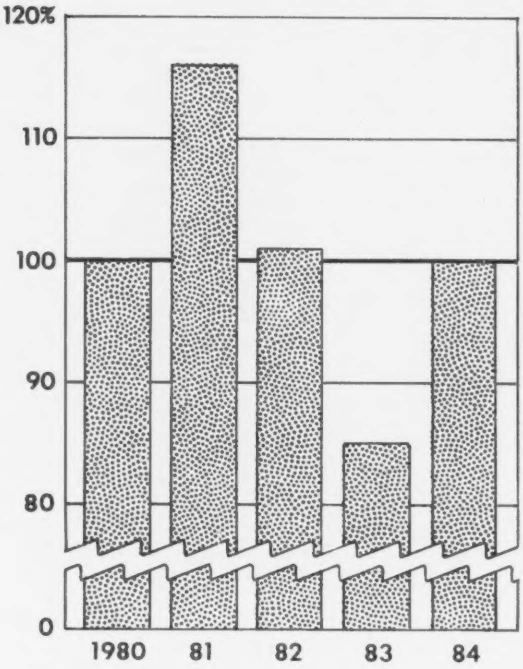
The General Equity Division hears cases involving relief other than, or in addition to, money. Examples include requests for injunctions forbidding certain alleged harmful conduct, specific performance of a contract, and rewriting or cancelling contracts.

CASELOAD TRENDS
1980 - 1984



- cases added increased 53.3%
- dispositions increased 53.5%
- pending cases increased 12.8%
- the growth rate in added has been nearly four times the growth rate in pending

CALENDAR CLEARANCE
1980 - 1984



- cleared three times in the last five years
- 1984 performance third best in last five years

CASES ADDED

1983	1984	% Change
6,792	6,784	-0.1

- cases added decreased 0.1% after increasing 58.3% last year.

MOTIONS

	1984
Number	8,241
Per Disposition	1.2

- motions per disposition have decreased from 2.2 in 1980 to 1.2 in 1984.

DISPOSITIONS

1983	1984	% Change
5,771	6,783	17.5

- dispositions have increased for 7 consecutive years

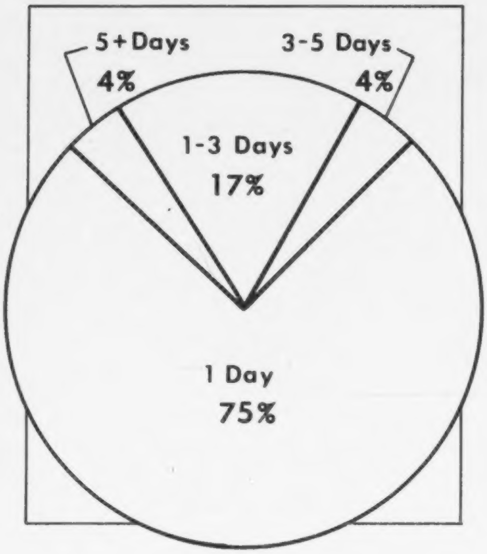
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE

	1984	% of Total
Trials completed	960	14.2
Settlements (Prior to Trial)	3,182	46.9
Dismissals & Discontinuances	1,541	22.7
Transfers & Consolidations	958	14.1
Settled During Trial (Including Partially Tried)	142	2.1
Total	6,783	100

- although there were 93 more trials in 1984 than last year, the proportion of trial dispositions is decreasing. In 1980, trials accounted for 22.3% of all dispositions

- settlements are accounting for a greater proportion of dispositions. In 1980, settlements totaled 43.6% of dispositions

TRIAL LENGTH



- trials were measurably shorter in 1984 than 1983. The proportion of trials 1 day or less increased from 69% to 75% while the proportion of trials 1 to 3 days decreased from 22% to 17%.
- in 1980, only 66% of trials were one day or less

TRIALS

	1984	% of Total
Settled during trial and partially tried	142	12.9
Completed	960	87.1

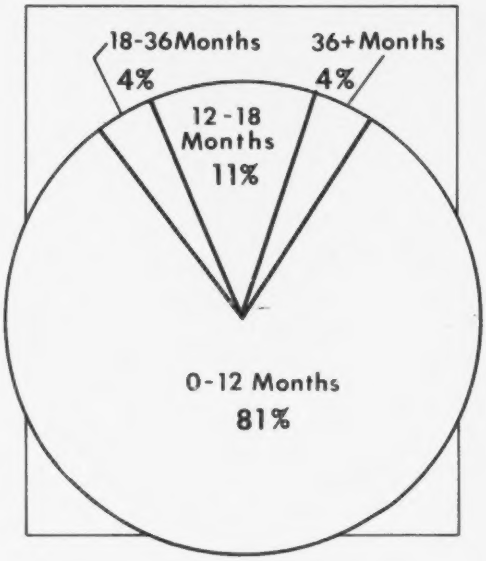
- a greater proportion of trials are tried to completion. In 1980, completed trials accounted for 67.6%

PENDING CASES

	1983	1984	% Change
Active	3,160	3,261	3.2%
Inactive	341	241	-29.3%
Total	3,501	3,502	0

- the proportion of inactive cases declined from 9.7% to 6.9% after greatly increasing in 1983

AGE OF ACTIVE PENDING CASES



ACTIVE PENDING CASES

0-12 months	12-18 months	18-36 months	36+ months	cases total
2,650	343	140	128	3,261

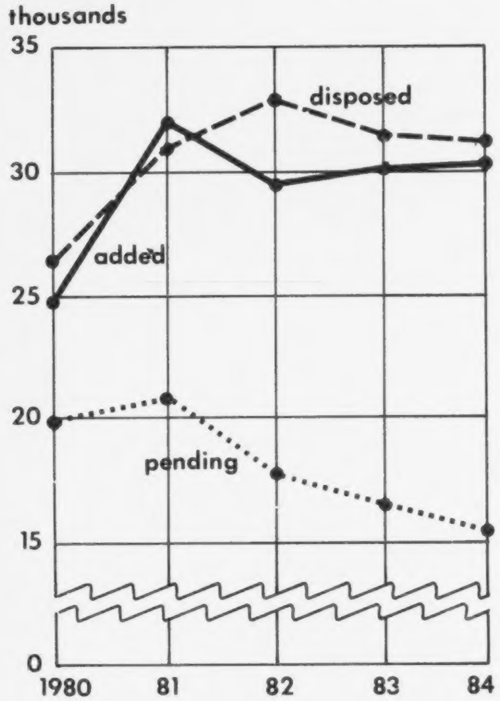
FAMILY

The Family Division was established on January 1, 1984 by Constitutional amendment. This Division includes all family related matters. Division proceedings are reported as Dissolution (formerly Matrimonial) cases and other Family cases.

DISSOLUTION

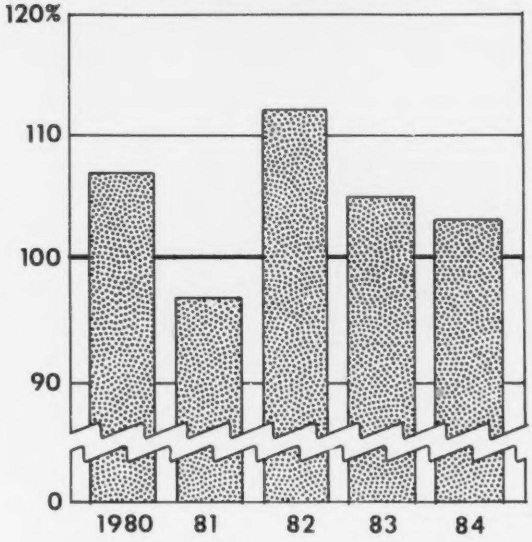
All matters related to divorce are handled on Dissolution calendar (formerly called Matrimonial).

CASELOAD TRENDS
1980 - 1984



- cases added increased 22.0%
- dispositions increased 18.0%
- pending cases decreased 22.1%

CALENDAR CLEARANCE
1980 - 1984



- cleared four of the last five years
- 1984 was the third consecutive year of clearance

CASES ADDED

1983	1984	% Change
30,103	30,325	0.7%

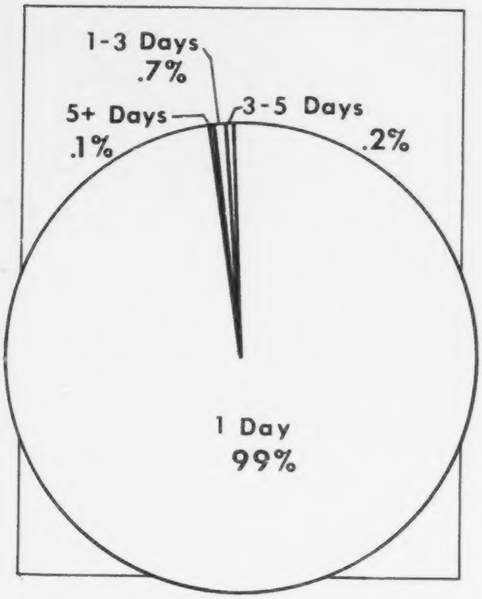
- second consecutive year of caseload increase

MOTIONS

	1984
Number	25,944
Per Disposition	.8

- although motions increased in 1984, motions per disposition have been steadily declining since 1980 when this factor stood at 1.2

HEARING LENGTH



- hearing length remained the same as last year
- in 1980, 1.2% of Hearings were longer than 1 day as compared to 1.0% in 1984

DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE

	1984	% of Total
Trial Completions	8,593	28
Settlements	14,277	46
Default Judgements	4,960	16
Dismissed	1,697	5
Other	1,711	5
TOTAL	31,238	100

- categories of disposition for 1984 vary from previous years
- categories now explain the type of disposition

DISPOSITIONS

1983	1984	% Change
31,591	31,238	-1.1%

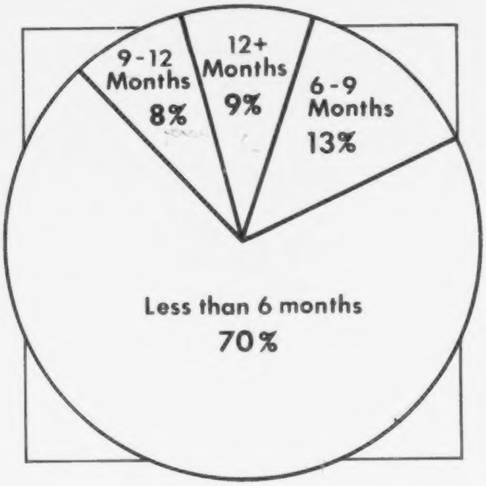
- although dispositions decreased slightly in 1984, dispositions have increased in three of the last five years

PENDING CASES

	1983	1984	% Change
Active	16,149	15,479	-4.1%
Inactive	307	64	-79.2%
Total	16,456	15,543	-5.5%

- pending cases decreased for the third consecutive year

AGE OF ACTIVE PENDING CASES



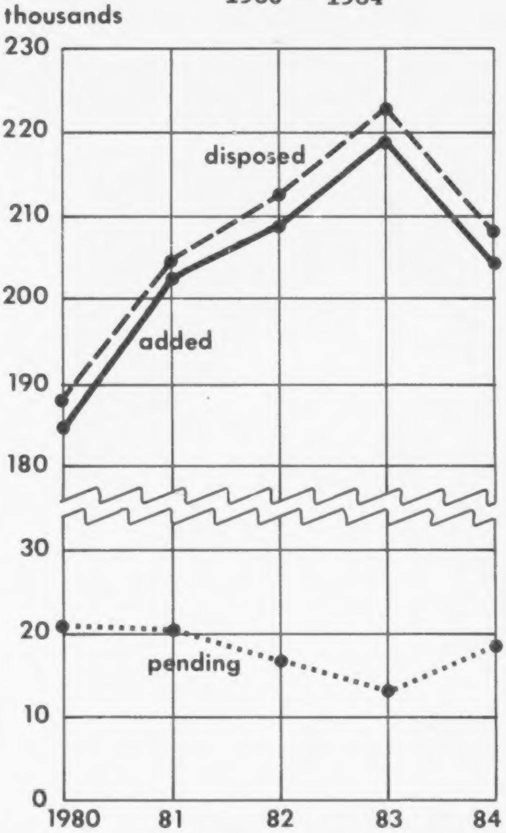
- in 1981, 38% of the pending cases were over six months

OTHER FAMILY

In addition to Dissolution matters, the Family Part of the Superior Court hears complaints of a broad nature involving family matters. These include Non-Dissolution (formerly Domestic Relations) involving child support, custody, visitation and paternity matters (other than divorce), Juvenile Delinquency, Domestic Violence, and Special Family cases (formerly termed Juveniles in Need of Supervision (JINS) and Child Placement Review cases. During the court year, the JINS calendar was ended and the Special Family calendar went into effect (Jan. 1, 1984).

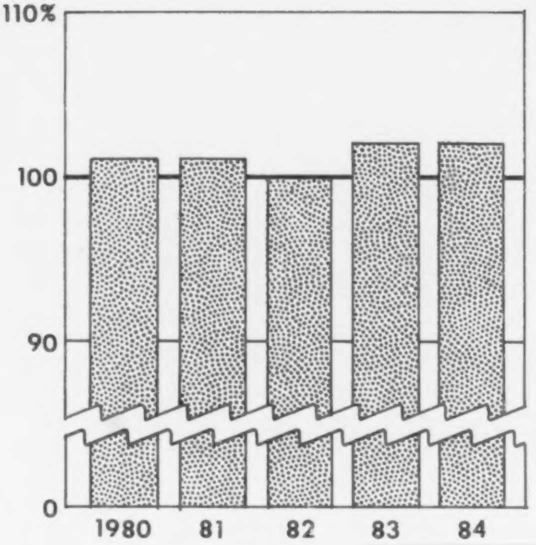
Presented below is data concerning the Other Family cases from the Juvenile Delinquency, JINS, Non-Dissolution, Domestic Violence, and Special Family calendars.

CASELOAD TRENDS
1980 - 1984



- cases added increased 10.3%
- dispositions increased 10.7%
- cases pending decreased 13.5%

CALENDAR CLEARANCE
1980 - 1984



- cleared for the last five years consecutively

CASES ADDED

	1983	1984	% Change
Juvenile Delinquency	93,720	88,068	-6.0%
JINS * (7/83-12/83)	11,510	4,742	N/A%
Non-Dissolution	97,403	87,821	-9.8%
Domestic Violence **	16,442**	13,842	-15.8%
Special Family *** (Eff.1/84)	N/A	10,229	N/A%
TOTAL	219,075	204,702	-6.6%

* JINS Cases (7/83-12/83)
** Dom. Violence Statistics - 9/1/82 - 8/31/83
*** Special Family -(eff. 1/84)

- total cases added decreased after four consecutive years of increases

- decrease was due to less filings on three largest calendars:
  Juvenile Delinquency - 6.0%
  Non-Dissolution - 9.8%
  Domestic Violence - 15.8%

DISPOSITIONS

	1983	1984	% Change
Juvenile Delinquency	95,248	90,135	-5.4%
JINS * (7/83-12/83)	11,680	5,359	N/A%
Non-Dissolution	99,571	88,850	-10.8%
Domestic Violence **	16,465**	13,856	-15.8%
Special Family *** (Eff.1/84)	N/A	10,322	N/A%
TOTAL	222,964	208,522	-6.5%

* JINS Cases (7/83-12/83)
** Dom. Violence Statistics - 9/1/82 - 8/31/83
*** Special Family -(eff. 1/84)

- total cases disposed decreased after four consecutive years of increases
- all four calendars in existence at the start of the 1984 year, showed disposition decreases

PENDING CASES

	1983	1984	% Change
Juvenile Delinquency	7,925	5,858	-26.1%
JINS * (7/83-12/83)	617	-	N/A%
Non-Dissolution	4,627	3,598	-22.2%
Domestic Violence **	386	412	6.7%
Special Family *** (Eff.1/84)	N/A	8,527	N/A%
TOTAL	13,555	18,395	35.7%

* JINS Cases (7/83-12/83)
** Dom. Violence Statistics - 9/1/82 - 8/31/83
*** Special Family -(eff. 1/84)

- total cases pending increased after four consecutive years of decreases due to the influx of Special Family cases
- the two largest calendars showed significant decreases in pending cases:
  Juvenile Delinquency - 26.1%
  Non-Dissolution - 22.2%

Vicinage Profiles

Passaic Assignment Judge Nicholas G. Mandak and Trial Court Administrator Richard M. Centanni (top left, clockwise), Mercer Assignment Judge Samuel D. Lenox, Jr. and Trial Court Administrator Robert J. Reed; Hudson Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys and Trial Court Administrator John A. Clarke, Jr.; Union Assignment Judge Edward W. Beglin, Jr. and Trial Court Administrator John N. Miri, Esq.; Atlantic-Cape May Assignment Judge Philip A. Gruccio and Trial Court Administrator Charles E. McCaffery; and Bergen Assignment Judge Peter Ciolino and Trial Court Administrator Dr. Conrad J. Roncati.

VICINAGE 1 Atlantic-Cape May Counties

					Percent Change		
	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	3,399	3,133	717			
	1983	3,033	2,868	582	12%	9%	23%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	250	230	50			
	1983	282	297	31	-11%	-23%	61%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	23	25	3			
	1983	17	10	6	35%	150%	-50%
EQUITY	1984	544	617	153			
	1983	561	546	236	-3%	13%	-35%
CIVIL	1984	2,383	2,531	2,084			
	1983	2,251	2,234	2,166	6%	13%	-4%
SPECIAL CIVIL (formerly Dist. Ct.)	1984	17,381	18,154	1,011			
	1983	16,861	17,648	1,455	3%	3%	-31%
SURROGATE	1984	113	117	26			
	1983	110	103	30	3%	14%	-13%
DISSOLUTION (formerly Mat.)	1984	1,305	1,496	566			
	1983	1,274	1,284	760	2%	17%	-26%
DELINQUENCY	1984	6,388	6,543	132			
	1983	7,686	7,842	287	-17%	-17%	-54%
NON-DISSOLUTION (formerly Dom. Rel.)	1984	5,297	5,350	199			
	1983	6,770	7,016	271	-22%	-24%	-27%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	888	884	18			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83	** 1983	815	812	7	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83	* 1984	471	489	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	1,040	1,051	18	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	677	829	272			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84) eff. 1/1/84	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	1984	39,119	40,398	5,231			
	1983	40,700	41,711	5,849	-4%	-3%	-11%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- greatest decrease in state in cases pending in General Equity -35% and Dissolution -26%
- highest increase in State in Dissolution cases disposed of +17%
- second highest increase in State in Special Civil cases disposed of, +3%
- second greatest decrease in Delinquency cases pending -54%

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* JINS cases as of 1/1/84 are part of the Special Family Court.

** Do not have statistics for one year ago (July & Aug. 1982) therefore using Court Year 9/1/82 - 8/31/83

VICINAGE 2 Bergen County

	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	Percent Change		
					ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	2,479	2,471	981	37%	34%	12%
	1983	1,816	1,839	877			
MUN. APPEALS	1984	431	391	179	16%	20%	29%
	1983	371	325	139			
P.C. RELIEF	1984	17	20	4	55%	82%	-
	1983	11	11	4			
EQUITY	1984	547	580	213	-11%	10%	-14%
	1983	613	527	247			
CIVIL	1984	6,122	7,106	7,693	-1%	15%	-12%
	1983	6,156	6,181	8,700			
SPECIAL CIVIL (formerly Dist. Ct.)	1984	35,541	35,554	4,025	-1%	-4%	0%
	1983	35,918	37,121	4,038			
SURROGATE	1984	34	24	20	-19%	-56%	100%
	1983	42	54	10			
DISSOLUTION (formerly Mat.)	1984	3,120	3,205	1,718	-5%	-4%	-5%
	1983	3,283	3,323	1,803			
DELINQUENCY	1984	7,389	7,922	478	8%	16%	-49%
	1983	6,861	6,805	930			
NON-DISSOLUTION (formerly Dom. Rel.)	1984	4,621	4,699	137	26%	28%	-36%
	1983	3,676	3,677	215			
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	937	944	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
9/1/82 - 8/31/83	** 1983	923	929	10			
JINS 7/83 - 12/83	* 1984	287	384	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	668	721	97			
SPECIAL FAMILY (1/1/84 - 6/30/84) eff. 1/1/84	1984	430	406	346	N/A	N/A	N/A
	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A			
TOTAL	1984	61,955	63,706	15,795	3%	4%	-7%
	1983	60,338	61,513	17,070			

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- highest increase in State in total cases added +3%
- cleared all major calendars except Criminal
- highest increase in State in Criminal calendar activity, added +37% and dispositions +34%
- highest increase in State in Non-Dissolution calendar activity, added +26% and dispositions +28%
- second greatest decrease in State in General Equity cases pending -14%

VICINAGE 3 Burlington County

	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	Percent Change		
					ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	1,039	924	293			
	1983	889	982	258	17%	-6%	14%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	217	240	55			
	1983	253	252	78	-14%	-5%	-29%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	4	8	2			
	1983	8	4	6	-50%	100%	-67%
EQUITY	1984	264	269	187			
	1983	281	219	180	-6%	23%	4%
CIVIL	1984	1,581	1,455	1,765			
	1983	1,404	1,092	1,618	13%	33%	9%
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	12,878	13,908	1,305			
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	13,252	14,133	1,771	-3%	-2%	-26%
SURROGATE	1984	39	40	8			
	1983	28	28	9	39%	43%	-11%
DISSOLUTION	1984	1,600	1,607	850			
(formerly Mat.)	1983	1,531	1,583	859	5%	2%	-1%
DELINQUENCY	1984	3,594	3,524	175			
	1983	4,499	4,685	105	-20%	-25%	67%
NON-DISSOLUTION	1984	2,583	2,589	236			
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	2,826	2,893	242	-9%	-11%	-2%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	707	741	24			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83 **	1983	978	973	45	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83 *	1984	130	135	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	260	263	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	102	51	279			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84) eff. 1/1/84	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	1984	24,738	25,491	5,179			
	1983	26,209	27,107	5,176	-6%	-6%	0%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- highest increase in State in cases added in Civil +13%
- second greatest decrease in State in Special Civil cases pending -26%
- third highest increase in State in cases added in Criminal +17% and Dissolution +5%

VICINAGE 4 Camden County

					Percent Change		
	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	4,014	3,843	1,018			
	1983	3,553	3,671	890	13%	5%	14%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	184	199	22			
	1983	167	156	37	10%	28%	-41%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	27	26	3			
	1983	11	12	2	145%	117%	50%
EQUITY	1984	347	374	181			
	1983	415	387	169	-16%	-3%	7%
CIVIL	1984	4,823	4,502	4,269			
	1983	4,323	4,652	3,961	12%	-3%	8%
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	23,021	22,814	1,064			
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	22,151	22,271	867	4%	2%	23%
SURROGATE	1984	17	24	13			
	1983	21	12	20	-19%	100%	-35%
DISSOLUTION	1984	2,142	2,148	1,166			
(formerly Mat.)	1983	1,883	1,967	1,172	14%	9%	-1%
DELINQUENCY	1984	6,799	6,907	402			
	1983	7,224	7,452	510	-6%	-7%	-21%
NON-DISSOLUTION	1984	9,395	9,436	171			
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	10,641	10,653	212	-12%	-11%	-19%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	1,058	1,098	30			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83	** 1983	1,060	1,069	35	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83	* 1984	121	126	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	445	456	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	827	1,077	562			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84)	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
eff. 1/1/84							
TOTAL	1984	52,775	52,574	8,901			
	1983	51,894	52,758	7,880	2%	0%	13%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- highest increase in State in cases added in Dissolution +14%
- second highest increase in State in total cases added +2%
- experienced second greatest decrease in State in General Equity cases added -16%

VICINAGE 5 Essex County

					Percent Change		
	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	6,352	6,482	3,825			
	1983	5,921	6,009	3,770	7%	8%	1%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	356	392	62			
	1983	346	358	98	3%	9%	-37%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	47	52	5			
	1983	39	39	10	21%	33%	-50%
EQUITY	1984	814	754	398			
	1983	631	510	334	29%	48%	19%
CIVIL	1984	8,243	6,901	7,912			
	1983	7,982	8,238	6,573	3%	-16%	20%
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	68,864	69,870	4,601			
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	74,094	75,354	5,607	-7%	-7%	-18%
SURROGATE	1984	31	23	31			
	1983	41	41	23	-24%	-44%	35%
DISSOLUTION	1984	2,841	2,878	1,584			
(formerly Mat.)	1983	2,817	3,263	1,564	1%	-12%	1%
DELINQUENCY	1984	12,829	13,014	872			
	1983	12,635	12,649	1,057	2%	3%	-18%
NON-DISSOLUTION	1984	15,343	15,387	7			
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	22,383	23,307	61	-31%	-34%	-89%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	2,278	2,259	91			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83	** 1983	3,189	3,182	71	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83	* 1984	468	508	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	1,093	1,124	40	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	3,293	3,402	2,510			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84) eff. 1/1/84	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	1984	121,759	121,922	21,898			
	1983	131,171	134,074	19,208	-7%	-9%	14%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- highest increase in State in General Equity calendar activity, added +29% and dispositions +48%
- cleared all major calendars except General Equity
- experienced greatest decrease in State in total cases added -7%
- greatest decrease in State in Non-Dissolution activity, added -31%, dispositions -34% and pending -89%

VICINAGE 6 Hudson County

	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	Percent Change		
					ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	2,293	2,866	550	4%	10%	-23%
	1983	2,197	2,598	717			
MUN. APPEALS	1984	113	107	30	27%	30%	36%
	1983	89	82	22			
P.C. RELIEF	1984	15	19	6	-32%	12%	-45%
	1983	22	17	11			
EQUITY	1984	499	504	243	-3%	25%	8%
	1983	517	403	224			
CIVIL	1984	4,698	4,625	3,591	6%	2%	2%
	1983	4,423	4,527	3,520			
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	37,631	37,862	2,397	1%	-2%	-9%
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	37,081	38,740	2,628			
SURROGATE	1984	62	48	29	15%	-24%	93%
	1983	54	63	15			
DISSOLUTION	1984	2,182	2,332	997	-2%	-5%	-13%
(formerly Mat.)	1983	2,228	2,449	1,147			
DELINQUENCY	1984	6,303	6,670	862	3%	5%	-30%
	1983	6,097	6,352	1,229			
NON-DISSOLUTION	1984	4,359	4,268	565	-6%	-6%	-3%
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	4,632	4,545	582			
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	1,126	1,078	74	N/A	N/A	N/A
9/1/82 - 8/31/83 **	1983	864	856	25			
JINS 7/83 - 12/83 *	1984	573	791	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	1,330	1,253	218			
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	841	842	794	N/A	N/A	N/A
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84)	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A			
eff. 1/1/84							
TOTAL	1984	60,695	62,012	10,138	2%	0%	-2%
	1983	59,534	61,885	10,338			

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- second highest increase in State in total cases added +2%
- second greatest decrease in State in Criminal cases pending -23%
- third highest increase in State in Delinquency activity, added +3% and dispositions +3%
- fourth greatest decrease in State in Dissolution cases pending -13%

VICINAGE 7 Mercer County

					Percent Change		
	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	1,931	1,822	999			
	1983	2,095	1,734	1,031	-8%	5%	-3%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	230	217	64			
	1983	201	204	49	14%	6%	31%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	17	17	3			
	1983	22	20	4	-23%	-15%	-25%
EQUITY	1984	248	240	96			
	1983	246	196	92	1%	22%	4%
CIVIL	1984	1,800	1,849	2,336			
	1983	1,765	1,346	2,386	2%	37%	-2%
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	16,094	16,729	1,460			
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	16,792	16,670	1,276	-4%	0%	14%
SURROGATE	1984	94	86	16			
	1983	102	107	8	-8%	-20%	100%
DISSOLUTION	1984	1,227	1,165	999			
(formerly Mat.)	1983	1,327	1,311	953	-8%	-11%	5%
DELINQUENCY	1984	5,308	5,264	509			
	1983	6,072	6,262	469	-13%	-16%	9%
NON-DISSOLUTION	1984	4,052	4,068	209			
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	4,080	4,372	225	-1%	-7%	-7%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	892	889	25			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83 **	1983	826	817	22	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83 *	1984	204	237	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	591	599	33	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	477	319	217			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84) eff. 1/1/84	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	1984	32,574	32,902	6,933			
	1983	34,119	33,638	6,548	-5%	-2%	6%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- highest increase in Civil dispositions +37%
- greatest decrease in Dissolution calendar activity, cases added -8% and dispositions -11%
- experienced fourth greatest decrease in total cases added -5%, Criminal cases added -8% and Special Civil cases added -4%

VICINAGE 8 Middlesex County

	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	Percent Change ADDED	Percent Change DISPOSED	Percent Change ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	2,470	3,579	990	-12%	24%	-36%
	1983	2,800	2,883	1,537			
MUN. APPEALS	1984	323	310	63	10%	7%	26%
	1983	294	290	50			
P.C. RELIEF	1984	22	19	8	340%	850%	60%
	1983	5	2	5			
EQUITY	1984	543	531	320	-10%	7%	4%
	1983	603	498	308			
CIVIL	1984	6,958	7,497	7,957	9%	21%	-6%
	1983	6,394	6,180	8,496			
SPECIAL CIVIL (formerly Dist. Ct.)	1984	25,541	26,092	2,662	5%	8%	-17%
	1983	24,341	24,265	3,213			
SURROGATE	1984	26	32	7	0%	23%	-46%
	1983	26	26	13			
DISSOLUTION (formerly Mat.)	1984	2,499	2,798	1,390	2%	7%	-17%
	1983	2,456	2,622	1,670			
DELINQUENCY	1984	4,957	4,983	437	-13%	-16%	-6%
	1983	5,697	5,967	463			
NON-DISSOLUTION (formerly Dom. Rel.)	1984	5,303	5,318	282	10%	9%	-5%
	1983	4,815	4,872	297			
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 9/1/82 - 8/31/83	1984	899	931	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
	** 1983	844	849	21			
JINS 7/83 - 12/83 (7/82 - 6/83)	* 1984	189	203	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
	1983	552	566	14			
SPECIAL FAMILY (1/1/84 - 6/30/84) eff. 1/1/84	1984	265	238	426	N/A	N/A	N/A
	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A			
TOTAL	1984	49,995	52,531	14,542	2%	7%	-10%
	1983	48,827	49,020	16,087			

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- cleared every major calendar except General Equity
- highest increase in State in total dispositions +7%, second highest increase in total added +2%
- highest increase in State in Special Civil calendar activity, added +5% and dispositions +8%
- greatest decrease in State in Criminal cases pending -36%

VICINAGE 9 Monmouth County

					Percent Change		
	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	2,378	2,328	540			
	1983	2,176	2,372	553	9%	-2%	-2%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	338	334	45			
	1983	340	348	39	-1%	-4%	15%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	24	22	3			
	1983	14	17	1	71%	29%	200%
EQUITY	1984	567	506	328			
	1983	536	425	269	6%	19%	22%
CIVIL	1984	4,905	4,375	5,438			
	1983	4,747	5,119	4,945	3%	-15%	10%
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	21,209	21,738	4,008			
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	21,725	22,632	4,537	-2%	-4%	-12%
SURROGATE	1984	20	12	14			
	1983	10	16	6	100%	-25%	133%
DISSOLUTION	1984	2,224	2,213	903			
(formerly Mat.)	1983	2,283	2,371	893	-3%	-7%	1%
DELINQUENCY	1984	6,289	6,518	281			
	1983	7,439	7,455	510	-15%	-13%	-45%
NON-DISSOLUTION	1984	4,323	4,376	385			
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	4,026	4,027	393	7%	9%	-2%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	473	454	19			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83 **	1983	661	669	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83 *	1984	315	348	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	883	883	33	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	428	302	764			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84)	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
eff. 1/1/84							
TOTAL	1984	43,493	43,526	12,728			
	1983	44,840	46,334	12,179	-3%	-6%	5%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- third highest increase in State in Non-Dissolution calendar activity added +7% and disposed +9%
- fourth greatest decrease in State in Delinquency cases added -15% and cases pending -45%
- second highest increase in State in cases added in Surrogate +100%

VICINAGE 10 Morris-Sussex County

					Percent Change		
	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	1,411	1,431	356			
	1983	1,160	1,292	405	22%	11%	-12%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	419	477	72			
	1983	313	273	128	34%	75%	-44%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	10	8	3			
	1983	4	3	1	150%	167%	200%
EQUITY	1984	508	534	247			
	1983	510	418	269	0	28%	-8%
CIVIL	1984	2,740	2,762	3,201			
	1983	2,823	2,713	3,279	-3%	2%	-2%
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	16,857	17,120	1,923			
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	18,168	18,750	2,186	-7%	-9%	-12%
SURROGATE	1984	55	47	21			
	1983	27	29	13	104%	62%	62%
DISSOLUTION	1984	2,282	2,420	1,120			
(formerly Mat.)	1983	2,215	2,173	1,062	3%	11%	5%
DELINQUENCY	1984	3,566	3,555	254			
	1983	3,675	3,655	243	-3%	-3%	5%
NON-DISSOLUTION	1984	2,115	2,230	74			
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	2,048	2,008	189	3%	11%	-61%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	757	761	23			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83	** 1983	870	879	21	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83	* 1984	320	352	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	733	734	32	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	365	353	371			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84) eff. 1/1/84	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	1984	31,405	32,050	7,665			
	1983	32,546	32,927	7,828	-4%	-3%	-2%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- cleared all major calendars except Delinquency
- second highest increase in State in cases added in Criminal +22%
- second greatest decrease in State in cases added in Special Civil -7% and cases pending in Non-Dissolution -61%

VICINAGE 11 Passaic County

					Percent Change		
	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	1,878	2,144	728			
	1983	1,883	2,500	830	0%	-14%	-12%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	204	187	43			
	1983	146	141	26	40%	33%	65%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	32	34	7			
	1983	22	19	9	45%	79%	-22%
EQUITY	1984	423	417	228			
	1983	408	338	217	4%	23%	5%
CIVIL	1984	5,031	4,951	3,389			
	1983	4,533	4,100	3,273	11%	21%	4%
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	26,621	26,796	2,242			
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	26,951	27,358	2,417	-1%	-2%	-7%
SURROGATE	1984	29	21	11			
	1983	32	39	3	-9%	-46%	267%
DISSOLUTION	1984	1,903	1,915	900			
(formerly Mat.)	1983	1,788	2,108	912	6%	-9%	-1%
DELINQUENCY	1984	7,042	7,254	157			
	1983	6,706	6,619	391	5%	10%	-60%
NON-DISSOLUTION	1984	6,655	6,927	430			
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	6,940	7,217	699	-4%	-4%	-38%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	492	454	21			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83 **	1983	527	533	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83 *	1984	570	582	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	1,137	1,120	12	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	853	899	693			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84) eff. 1/1/84	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	1984	51,733	52,581	8,849			
	1983	51,073	52,092	8,794	1%	1%	1%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- second highest increase in State in Delinquency calendar activity added +5% and dispositions +10%
- third highest increase in State in Civil calendar activity added +11% and dispositions +21%
- greatest decrease in State in cases pending in Delinquency -60%
- third greatest decrease in State in cases pending in Criminal -12%

VICINAGE 12 Union County

					Percent Change		
	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	2,076	1,964	794			
	1983	1,899	2,063	689	9%	-5%	15%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	185	204	38			
	1983	171	144	57	8%	42%	-33%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	20	12	14			
	1983	18	16	6	11%	-25%	133%
EQUITY	1984	430	437	233			
	1983	460	386	221	-7%	13%	5%
CIVIL	1984	3,790	3,396	4,153			
	1983	4,667	3,712	3,794	-19%	-9%	9%
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	23,933	23,976	3,228			
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	24,050	24,808	3,271	0%	-3%	-1%
SURROGATE	1984	31	26	23			
	1983	29	20	18	7%	30%	28%
DISSOLUTION	1984	1,885	1,941	824			
(formerly Mat.)	1983	1,898	2,013	881	-1%	-4%	-6%
DELINQUENCY	1984	6,094	6,183	445			
	1983	6,316	6,416	534	-4%	-4%	-17%
NON-DISSOLUTION	1984	7,154	7,336	226			
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	7,243	7,447	412	-1%	-1%	-45%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	887	923	25			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83	** 1983	1,094	1,102	25	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83	* 1984	426	456	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	1,125	1,161	30	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	479	456	540			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84) eff. 1/1/84	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	1984	47,390	47,310	10,543			
	1983	48,970	49,288	9,938	-3%	-4%	6%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- greatest decrease in State in cases added in Civil -15%
- third greatest decrease in State in cases pending in Non-Dissolution -45%
- sixth highest increase in State in cases added in Criminal +9%

VICINAGE 13 Somerset-Hunterdon-Warren Counties

					Percent Change		
	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	1,570	1,661	450			
	1983	1,718	1,840	484	-9%	-10%	-7%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	270	288	45			
	1983	236	213	63	14%	35%	-29%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	10	6	4			
	1983	3	5	0	233%	20%	0%
EQUITY	1984	330	309	139			
	1983	285	246	120	16%	26%	16%
CIVIL	1984	1,550	1,846	998			
	1983	1,548	1,824	1,217	0	1%	-18%
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	11,560	11,571	1,195			
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	12,117	12,463	1,236	-5%	-7%	-3%
SURROGATE	1984	84	81	30			
	1983	88	86	28	-5%	-6%	7%
DISSOLUTION	1984	1,740	1,857	638			
(formerly Mat.)	1983	1,709	1,752	755	2%	6%	-15%
DELINQUENCY	1984	3,275	3,471	284			
	1983	3,853	4,019	480	-15%	-14%	-41%
NON-DISSOLUTION	1984	2,484	2,517	99			
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	2,552	2,610	125	-3%	-4%	-21%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	539	540	8			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83	** 1983	832	841	15	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83	* 1984	197	237	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	474	523	40	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	247	237	258			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84) eff. 1/1/84	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	1984	23,856	24,621	4,148			
	1983	25,415	26,422	4,563	-6%	-7%	-9%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- cleared every major calendar except General Equity
- experienced third greatest decrease in State in total cases added -6% and total cases pending -13%
- third greatest decrease in State in cases pending in Dissolution -15% and cases added in Delinquency -15%

VICINAGE 14 Ocean County

	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	Percent Change		
					ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	1,166	1,181	441			
	1983	1,253	1,400	472	-7%	-16%	-7%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	265	268	67			
	1983	311	306	72	-15%	-12%	-7%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	7	6	1			
	1983	8	11	0	-13%	-45%	0%
EQUITY	1984	409	387	152			
	1983	352	346	133	16%	12%	14%
CIVIL	1984	2,204	2,540	1,849			
	1983	2,302	2,455	2,191	-4%	3%	-16%
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	14,754	14,812	2,025			
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	14,687	15,084	2,093	0%	-2%	-3%
SURROGATE	1984	31	41	12			
	1983	34	31	12	-9%	32%	0%
DISSOLUTION	1984	1,633	1,549	725			
(formerly Mat.)	1983	1,584	1,600	641	3%	-3%	13%
DELINQUENCY	1984	3,494	3,541	222			
	1983	3,722	3,750	257	-6%	-6%	-14%
NON-DISSOLUTION	1984	3,381	3,464	80			
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	3,630	3,647	163	-7%	-5%	-51%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1984	1,021	969	18			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83 **	1983	1,619	1,609	67	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83 *	1984	136	147	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	379	383	11	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPECIAL FAMILY	1984	172	125	122			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84)	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
eff. 1/1/84							
TOTAL	1984	28,673	29,030	5,714			
	1983	29,881	30,622	6,112	-4%	-5%	-7%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- second highest increase in State in cases added in General Equity +16%
- second greatest decrease in State in cases pending in Civil -16%
- third greatest decrease in State in cases pending in Non-Dissolution -51%
- fourth greatest decrease in State in total cases pending -7%

VICINAGE 15 Gloucester-Cumberland-Salem Counties

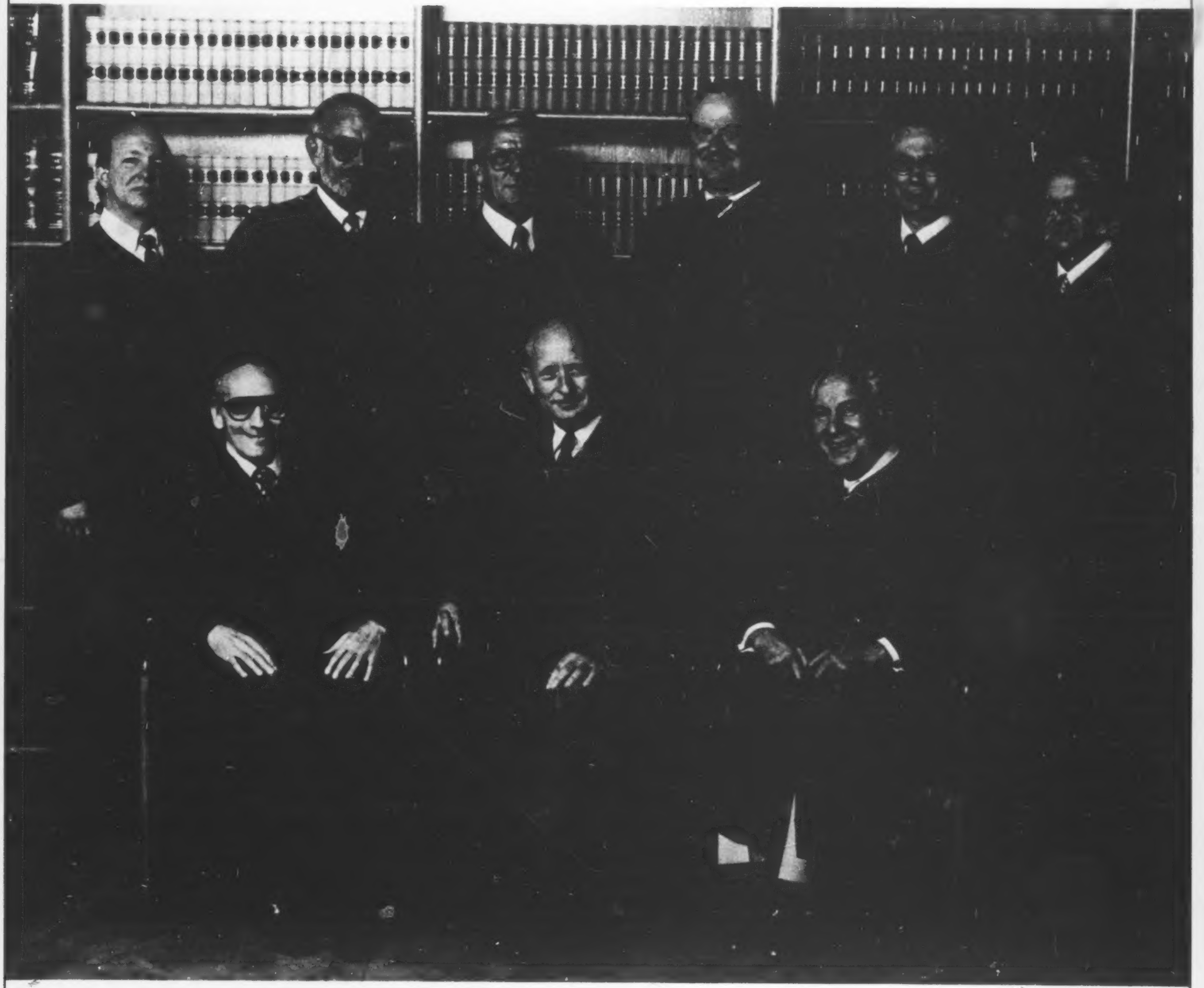
					Percent Change		
	YEAR	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING	ADDED	DISPOSED	ACTIVE PENDING
CRIMINAL	1984	2,679	2,811	914			
	1983	3,141	3,044	1,009	-15%	-8%	-9%
MUN. APPEALS	1984	221	187	97			
	1983	227	206	63	-3%	-9%	54%
P.C. RELIEF	1984	22	18	7			
	1983	22	24	3	0	-25%	133%
EQUITY	1984	311	324	143			
	1983	374	326	141	-17%	-1%	1%
CIVIL	1984	1,864	1,724	2,377			
	1983	1,771	1,559	2,295	5%	11%	4%
SPECIAL CIVIL	1984	16,754	17,116	1,973			
(formerly Dist. Ct.)	1983	16,273	16,929	2,356	3%	1%	-16%
SURROGATE	1984	22	27	17			
	1983	42	37	22	-48%	-27%	-23%
DISSOLUTION	1984	1,742	1,714	1,099			
(formerly Mat.)	1983	1,827	1,772	1,077	-5%	-3%	2%
DELINQUENCY	1984	4,741	4,786	348			
	1983	5,237	5,320	395	-9%	-10%	-12%
NON-DISSOL.	1984	10,756	10,885	498			
(formerly Dom. Rel.)	1983	11,141	11,280	585	-3%	-4%	-15%
DOMESTIC V.	1984	888	931	35			
9/1/82 - 8/31/83	** 1983	1,340	1,345	17	N/A	N/A	N/A
JINS 7/83 - 12/83	* 1984	335	364	0			
(7/82 - 6/83)	1983	800	843	29	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPEC. FAMILY	1984	773	786	373			
(1/1/84 - 6/30/84)	1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
eff. 1/1/84							
TOTAL	1984	41,108	41,673	7,881			
	1983	42,195	42,685	7,992	-3%	-2%	-1%

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

- greatest decrease in State in cases added in Criminal -15% and General Equity -17%

- third greatest decrease in State in cases added in Dissolution -5%

- fifth greatest decrease in State in cases pending in -11%



Tax Court

Tax Court Judges (seated, left to right) Michael A. Andrew, Jr., Presiding Judge Lawrence L. Lasser and Anthony M. Lario. (Standing, left to right) Richard M. Conley, Marvin N. Rimm, John F. Evers, David E. Crabtree, John J. Hopkins and Roger M. Kahn.

TAX COURT

This report is submitted to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey and published as part of the Annual Report of the Administrative Director of the Courts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:3A-24.

The Tax Court was established by the Legislature to afford taxpayers a prompt and impartial hearing and disposition of their disputes with governmental taxing agencies by a qualified body of judges. The objectives of the Tax Court are:

1. To provide effective, expeditious, inexpensive, convenient and equitable judicial review of state and local tax assessments.

2. To create a consistent, uniform body of tax law for the guidance of taxpayers and tax administrators to promote certainty in tax law and its application.

3. To make the decisions of the court readily available to taxpayers, tax administrators and tax professionals.

4. To promote the creation of a qualified and informed state and local tax bar.

June 30, 1984 ended the court's fifth year. At its inception the court assumed a case inventory exceeding 25,000 cases. Many of these cases were more than two years old. In the court's first two years, cases more than two years old approximated 50% of the court's case inventory. By the court's third and fourth years, cases over two years old had been reduced to approximately 28% of the total case inventory. During this court year the court continued to dispose of more cases than were filed, and by June 30, 1984 cases more than two years old comprised only 16% of the total case inventory.

In addition to hearing Tax Court cases, Tax Court judges heard and disposed of 612 Superior Court cases, many of which were tax-related.

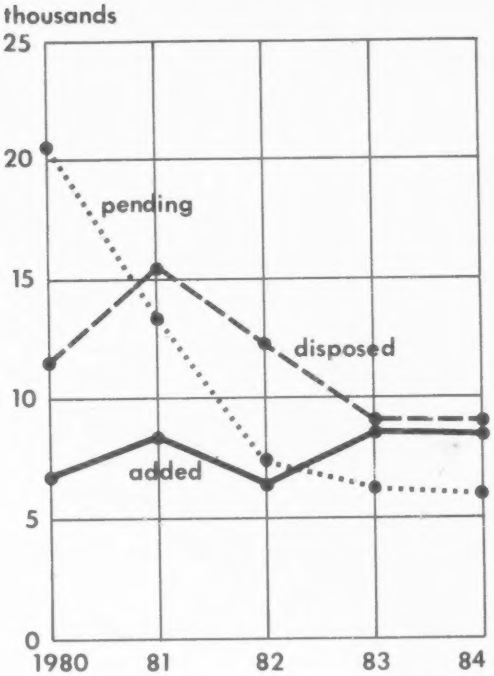
During the year there were nine Tax Court judges. At the end of the year, the court was informed of the intention of Hon. Richard M. Conley to resign from the court to return to private practice. Due to elimination of the case backlog, the court is able to maintain its operation on a current basis with the present eight Tax Court judges.

In February, 1984 Elaine B. Goldsmith resigned as Clerk of the Tax Court to accept a position as Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York. Ms. Goldsmith was the first Clerk of the Tax Court, having served the court creditably since January, 1980. Holly C. Bakke, an experienced court manager, succeeded as Clerk of the Court in March, 1984.

THE COURT

The Tax Court of New Jersey is a trial court with statewide jurisdiction. The court was established by the Legislature under Art. VI, §1, par. 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, as a court of limited jurisdiction, to hear cases contesting state tax and local property tax assessments. The enabling legislation can be found in N.J.S.A. 2A:3A-1 et seq. The court reviews the actions and determinations of assessors and county boards of taxation with respect to local property tax matters, and of the Director of the Division of Taxation, the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles and other state officials with respect to state taxes.

CASELOAD TRENDS
1980-1984



CASELOAD

At the beginning of the court year, the Tax Court had an inventory of 6,299 cases. Tax Court cases, Superior Court cases and miscellaneous applications filed during the court year totaled 8,633, aggregating a total of 14,932. Court dispositions totaled 9,004, reducing the inventory to 5,928 cases by the end of the year.

Following is a comparison of filings and dispositions for the five years of the court's existence:

	Year ended 8/31/80	Year ended 8/31/81	Year ended 8/31/82	Year ended 8/31/83	Year ended 6/30/84*
Cases pending first day of period	26,000	20,448**	13,227	7,311**	6,299
Filings	+6,925	+8,343	+6,376	+8,647	+8,633
Dispositions	-11,549	-15,564	-12,288	-9,003	-9,004
Cases pending last day of period	21,376	13,227	7,315	6,955	5,928

* Beginning July 1, 1983, the Judiciary changed its court year to end June 30 instead of August 31.

** Adjusted to reflect year-end physical case inventory.

CASELOAD BY TYPE

The ratio of local property tax to state tax cases over the last several years has remained constant, with state tax cases representing 7% to 14% of total filings and local property tax cases representing 86% to 93% of total filings.

Cases pending at the beginning of the court year

Local Property tax cases	93%
State tax and other non-local property tax cases	7%

Cases filed during the court year

Local property tax cases	88%
State tax and other non-local property tax cases	12%

Cases filed by category

Local property tax cases filed during the court year

Regular cases	49%
Small claim cases	50%
Other (correction of error and miscellaneous cases)	1%

Other tax cases filed during the court year

Homestead tax rebate cases	82%
State tax cases (other than homestead tax rebate)	15%
Equalization Table cases	3%

Dispositions

Local property taxes cases

Cases tried to completion	6%
Cases disposed by settlement, withdrawal, transfer or motion	88%

Other tax cases

Cases tried to completion	6%
Cases disposed by settlement, withdrawal, transfer or motion	94%

Pending cases

As of June 30, 1984, there were pending 5,493 local property tax cases and 262 state tax and equalization table cases.

APPEALS FROM TAX COURT DECISIONS

During the court year, 56 Tax Court decisions were appealed to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court, and the Appellate Division rendered decisions in 91 Tax Court cases. The Appellate Division took the following action:

Affirmed	50
Reversed	18
Dismissed or withdrawn	23
Total	91

During the court year, the Supreme Court granted certification in 10 Tax Court cases and took the following action with respect to appeals of Tax Court decisions:

Affirmed	8
Reversed	2
Returned to Appellate Division	2
Refused for filing	1
Total	13

The Supreme Court rendered decisions in the following 10 Tax Court cases:

1. DuBois v. Taxation Div. Director, 95 N.J. 234 (1983)
2. Fedders Financial Corp. v. Taxation Div. Director, 96 N.J. 376 (1984)
3. McMenamy v. Taxation Div. Director, 95 N.J. 139 (1983)
4. Metpath, Inc. v. Taxation Div. Director, 96 N.J. 147 (1984)
5. Mobay Chemical Corp. v. Taxation Div. Director, 96 N.J. 407 (1984)
6. Murnick v. Asbury Park 95 N.J. 452 (1984)
7. Paper Mill Playhouse v. Millburn Tp., 95 N.J. 503 (1984)
8. Smoyer v.Taxation Div. Director, 95 N.J. 139 (1983)
9. Holman v. Taxation Div. Director,(unreported December 23, 1983 decision)

10 Lane v. Taxation Div. Director, (unreported December 23, 1983 decision)

In addition, the Supreme Court returned Centex Homes of N.J., Inc. v. Manalapan Tp., 95 N.J. 218 (1983), and F.M.C. Stores Co. v. Morris Plains Boro, (unreported March 15, 1984 decision), to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court without decision, and refused to accept for filing appeals in Witco Chemical Corp. v. Perth Amboy, Weyerhaeuser Co. v. Closter Boro, and Alstores Realty Corp. v. Paramus Boro, (unreported October 25, 1983 decision).

The Dubois, McMenamy, Smoyer, Holman and Lane cases all involved income received after the effective date of the Gross Income Tax Act but derived from transactions occurring prior to the effective date. In each of these cases the Supreme Court affirmed Tax Court and Appellate Division decisions holding the income to be taxable. Fedders and Mobay involved the excludability of subsidiary corporation debt from parent net worth and the deductibility of interest on that debt for net income purposes under the Corporation Business Tax Act. The Tax Court decisions in Fedders and Mobay were affirmed by the Appellate Division. The Supreme Court affirmed the Appellate Division decision in Mobay but reversed the Appellate

Division in Fedders. The court's decisions in these two cases resulted in inclusion of debt and deductibility of interest. In Metpath, the Court affirmed Tax Court and Appellate Division decisions that chemicals used in computerized medical laboratory analyses were not exempt from sales tax under the catalyst exemption. In Murnick, the Supreme Court affirmed a taxpayer's right to relief from discriminatory assessment under Chapter 123 of the Laws of 1973, N.J.S.A. 54:51A-6, and narrowly construed taxpayers' rights under this statute. In Paper Mill Playhouse, the court reversed the Appellate Division and affirmed the Tax Court holding that the playhouse was exempt from real property taxation.

THE JUDGES

The Tax Court maintains courtrooms and chambers in Hackensack, Newark, New Brunswick, Trenton, Camden and Atlantic City. Tax Court cases originating in Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Essex, Union and Middlesex Counties are heard by the judges who sit in court houses in northern New Jersey. Tax Court cases originating in the remaining counties are heard in Trenton, Camden and Atlantic City and, as required, in court houses in Morristown, Somerville, Freehold, Toms River, Newton and Belvidere and in municipal courtrooms for the convenience of small claims taxpayers.

Each judge's courtroom staff is limited to a single court clerk who, in addition to normal courtroom duties, operates the sound recording equipment. The use of a sound recording system in the Tax Court has proven to be effective and cost efficient. It enables a traveling judge to move easily from one hearing location to another, provides the means for a judge's review of court proceedings in the preparation of written opinions, and permits the prompt preparation of transcripts for appeal purposes. The quality of the transcripts has been excellent.

During the court year, the judges met monthly to discuss substantive and procedural developments in the tax field. Many of the judges also participated in educational courses in property valuation and trial procedure. In March the Tax Court judges joined tax judges from 22 other states, the District of Columbia, Canada and the United Kingdom, together with representatives of the American Bar Association, at a National Conference of State Tax Judges' seminar in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COURT

The Office of the Clerk is the administrative arm of the Tax Court. Its staff is responsible for the record keeping and case management functions necessary to move cases to disposition. Accordingly, the Clerk's Office accepts papers for filing as well as monitors and schedules cases.

The Office of the Clerk is divided into four major functional units: intake, calendaring, judgment and records management. Each of these units, at various stages in the litigation process, provides taxpayers, tax attorneys and tax administrators with information about the filing of complaints, opinions of the court and judgments, and with other information regarding the review of state and local tax assessments. The staff also furnishes sample forms, court rules and pamphlets explaining Tax Court procedures in local property tax and state tax small claims cases.

During the court year, the office staff focused on modifying case processing procedures in anticipation of the introduction of an automated system. This included evaluation of docketing and calendaring procedures as well as a review of the system for processing filing fees.

SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON THE TAX COURT

The Supreme Court Committee on the Tax Court is composed of judges, attorneys, tax officials at the municipal, county and state level, representatives of taxpayers' and tax professionals' organizations and representatives of the public. Meetings were held during the court year to discuss the operation of the Tax Court, procedural aspects of practice before the Tax Court and a wider utilization of sound recording technology to decrease the cost of litigation.

The committee's review of the Tax Court Rules resulted in recommended changes to simplify and clarify procedures under the Rules. The Rule changes recommended by the committee were adopted by the Supreme Court.

Since no other such forum exists in the State of New Jersey, the Supreme Court Committee on the Tax Court affords a unique opportunity for taxpayers, those who represent taxpayers and those who administer and review tax laws to meet and discuss common problems and ways to improve the state and local tax system. These committee discussions have resulted in better understanding and coordination among the groups represented by the participants. The committee also provides a means of communication between the Supreme Court and taxpayers and tax professionals.

STANDARDS OF ASSESSMENT AND LEGAL PRINCIPLES UTILIZED BY THE TAX COURT

Local property tax cases generally involve a determination of the value of property for assessment purposes. Value for assessing purposes is fair market value, that is, the price that would be paid by a willing purchaser and accepted by a willing seller, neither being compelled to buy or sell. It is the fair market value standard that is utilized to achieve the uniformity in assessment that is required by the New Jersey Constitution. The court applies the valuation principles required by statute and the Constitution and determines fair market value by application of such of the three approaches to value as may be presented in evidence and deemed appropriate by the court. These three approaches are: (1) the market approach, which estimates value based on sales of comparable properties, (2) the cost approach, which estimates value based on construction cost less depreciation and (3) the income approach, which estimates value based on capitalization of the income stream produced by the property. Local property tax cases sometimes involve a claim of discrimination. In such cases the court follows the legal principles established by the Supreme Court in _In re Appeal of Kents_, 34 _N.J._ 21 (1961), and _Murnick v. Asbury Park_, 95 _N.J._ 452 (1984), as well as statutory provisions granting relief from discrimination. N.J.S.A. 54:51A-6 (Chapter 123 of the Laws of 1973).

Examples of the standards of assessment and legal principles utilized by the Tax Court during the court year ended June 30, 1984 may be found in the 40 opinions approved for publication in New Jersey Tax Court Reports. These opinions are representative of the approximately 700 tax cases tried to completion during the court year. Twenty-three opinions dealt with local property tax matters and 17 with state tax matters. The local property tax opinions dealt with valuation, discrimination,, farmland assessment, the Freeze Act, the Correction of Error statute, exemptions, riparian lands and expert appraisal testimony.

Significant among the local property tax opinions are: Berkley Arms Apartment Corp. v. Hackensack, 6 N.J. Tax 260 (Tax Ct. 1983), which dealt with the valuation of a cooperative apartment house and the effect on its valuation of the Anti-Eviction Act, N.J.S.A. 2A:18-61.1 et seq., which protects existing tenants from eviction when the apartments are converted to a cooperative; Overlook Hospital Ass'n. v. Summit, 6 N.J. Tax 90 (Tax Ct. 1983), aff'd 6 N.J. Tax 350 (App. Div. 1984), which held the hospital's multi-tiered parking garage to be exempt from taxation;

Inwood at Great Notch v. Little Falls Tp., 6 N.J. Tax 316 (Tax Ct. 1984), which dealt with vacancy decontrol and income tax benefits in the valuation of a multi-family residential property, and Ridgewood v. Bolger Foundation, 6 N.J. Tax 391 (Tax Ct. 1984), (App. Div. Appeal pending), a case involving the valuation of property subject to a conservation easement.

Published state tax decisions included five gross income tax cases, two sales tax cases, three transfer inheritance tax cases, three corporation business tax cases and cases dealing with the realty transfer fee, homestead rebate, autobus excise tax and the capital gains and other unearned income tax.

Significant among the state tax opinions are: Garfield Trust Co. v. Taxation Div. Director, 6 N.J. Tax 462 (Tax Ct. 1984) (App. Div. appeal pending), which held that the calculation of commercial bank corporation business tax liability should include the value of and income from federal, state and local government obligations; Continental Trailways v. Motor Veh. Div. Director, 6 N.J. Tax 42 (Tax Ct. 1983) (aff'd. by Appellate Division, Jan. 2, 1985) which held that the excise tax imposed on interstate but not intrastate autobus operations violates the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution, and Grand Chester Assoc. v. Taxation Div. Director, 6 N.J. Tax 336 (Tax Ct. 1984), which held that rehabilitation of a fire-damaged building does not constitute an entirely new improvement entitled to partial exemption from realty transfer fee.

PUBLICATION OF TAX COURT OPINIONS

A key objective of the court is availability of Tax Court decisions to taxpayers, the tax bar, tax administrators and other tax professionals. Ready access to these opinions assists in tax planning, tax administration and tax enforcement by improving predictability. Summaries of opinions approved for publication are published in the New Jersey Law Journal. "Slip opinions are produced and made available by the Administrative Office of the Courts. West Publishing Company publishes the opinions in New Jersey Tax Court Reports and issues advance sheets prior to publication of these reports.

Volume 5 of New Jersey Tax Court Reports was published in the spring of 1984. This volume contains 50 state and local tax opinions. Advance sheets for Volume 6 were issued during the court year. Bound volumes of New Jersey Tax Court Reports are published annually.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Based on the cases heard by the court, it appears that the system for review of state and local tax disputes is generally functioning satisfactorily. However, the court's experience with taxpayers, tax attorneys and tax administrators has revealed areas where the state and local tax system can be improved. Legislative changes to be considered are:

1. Modification of the provision for direct appeal to the Tax Court in those local property tax cases where the assessment exceeds $750,000 to include appeals of added and omitted assessments. (N.J.S.A. 54:3-21). The Legislature made provision for direct appeal to the Tax Court in appeals contesting larger assessments because these were matters which if appealed to county boards of taxation would, in most cases, be appealed further to the Tax Court. This provision for direct appeal saves time and expense for all concerned. The direct appeal procedure has worked well and therefore should be amended to include appeals contesting added and omitted assessments that exceed $750,000.

2. Adoption of a statutory definition of "personal property" for the purpose of distinguishing such property from real property when dealing with the local real property tax and the state business personal property tax. There is uncertainty and confusion at both the taxpayer and tax administrator level because real property and personal property are not easily distinguishable.

3. Reduction in a taxpayer's property tax when his property is destroyed during the tax year, with a ceiling on the reduction to protect a taxing district from a large loss of ratables. See Galloway Tp. v. Dorflinger, 2 N.J. Tax 358 (Tax Ct. 1980). Tax assessment is based on the vlaue of the property as of October 1 of the pretax year. N.J.S.A. 54:4-35.1 gives partial relief by permitting an assessor to take into consideration destruction occurring between October 1 and December 31 of the pretax year. When considering this change, however, fairness to the taxpayer must be weighed against stability and predictability of local government revenue sources.

4. Adoption of a provision that a Tax Court judgment or order for the payment of money be entered in the Civil Judgment and Order Docket of the Clerk of the Superior Court for record search purposes, as was provided for the Chancery Division of the Superior Court prior to 1981 (N.J.S.A. 2A:16-11), and was provided for the District Court (N.J.S.A. 2A:18-32 & 36) and the Juvenile

and Domestic Relations Court (N.J.S.A. 2A:4-19.1) prior to their integration with the Superior Court.

5. Amendment of the rebate application procedure of the Homestead Tax Rebate Act (N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.80) to alleviate taxpayer dissatisfaction resulting from denial of rebates because of untimely filing of rebate claims. Each year several hundred complaints are filed with the Tax Court contesting denial of homestead tax rebate claims for untimely filing. Most of these claims are filed by taxpayers who are new residents of the state and are not aware of the filing deadline, or by taxpayers who are out of the state at the time application forms are mailed to them, or by taxpayers who are mentally or physically incapacitated during the filing period.

6. Amendment of N.J.S.A. 54:3-21.4, which provides for extension of the August 15 deadline for filing appeals to a county board of taxation in the event the tax bills are not sent to taxpayers prior to July 15, to provide that the August 15 deadline for filing direct appeals to the Tax Court is similarly extended when an extension for filing to a county board of taxation is granted.

7. Consider repealing the Corporation Income Tax Act, N.J.S.A. 54:10E-1 et seq., as duplicative of the Corporation Business Tax Act, N.J.S.A. 54:10A-1 et seq. The corporation income tax was enacted after the decision in Spector Motor Service, Inc. v. O'Connor, 340 U.S. 602, 71 S.Ct. 508, 95 L.Ed. 573 (1951), held that a franchise tax, such as the corporation business tax, could not be imposed on interstate business. Complete Auto Transit v. Brady, 430 U.S. 274, 97 S.Ct. 1076, 51 L.Ed 2d 326 (1977), overruled Spector, permitting the corporation business tax to be imposed on interstate business. See Tamko Asphalt Products, Inc. v. Taxation Div. Director, 5 N.J. Tax 446, 455 (Tax Ct. 1983).

8. Amend N.J.S.A. 2A:3A-1 to change the reference to the Tax Court from an "inferior court" to an "other court", so that this statute will conform to the November 7, 1978 amendment to Art. VI, §1, par. 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, N.J.S.A. 2A:3A-1 having been enacted on June 13, 1978, prior to the amendment of the Constitution.

9. Consider requiring the assessor to give notice to the owner of a previously tax-exempt property when the assessor denies property tax exemption for a subsequent year, to put the owner on notice of the August 15 deadline to contest the denial of exemption. See St. Michael's Passionist Monastery v. Union City, 5 N.J. Tax 415 (Tax Ct. 1983), remanded 195 N.J. Super. 608 (App. Div. 1984).

TAX COURT OF NEW JERSEY

July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984

	Local Property Tax	State Tax	Equalization, etc.	Total
Taxes cases pending, filed and disposed:				
Cases pending 7/1/83	5,861	418	14	6,299
New cases added	4,851	612	21	5,484
Reinstated/Transfer cases (including remands)	54	4	0	58
Total cases added	10,766	1,034	35	11,841
Cases disposed by trial (tried to completion)	642	48	1	691
Cases disposed without trial (withdrawn or settled before or after assigned to judge, or by motion)	4,630	734	19	5,383
Cases transferred to other courts	1	5	0	6
Total cases disposed	5,273	787	20	6,080
Pending cases 6/30/84	5,493	247	15	5,761

	Miscellaneous Applications	Superior Court	Total
Other Matters:			
Cases pending 7/1/83	0	6	6
New cases added	2,312	779	3,091
Cases disposed	2,312	612	2,924
Pending cases 6/30/84	0	173	173

Character of complaints filed:

Local Property Tax

Vacant Land	434	
Residential	661	
Farmland	43	
Commercial	1,007	
Industrial	397	
Multi-family Residential	1,903	
Other	406	
		4,851

Cases other than Local Property Tax

State Tax

Business Personal Property	3	
Corporation Business	21	
Corporation Income	4	
Emergency Transportation and Transportation Benefits	2	
Financial Business	1	
Gross Income	27	
Homestead Tax Rebate	516	
Motor Fuel Sales	3	
Realty Transfer Fee	1	
Sales and Use	23	
Transfer Inheritance	9	
Other	2	
		612

Equalization and related

County Equalization	2	
County Rebate	2	
Order to Revalue	3	
Table of Equalized Valuation (School Aid)	14	
		21
Total other filings		633

Total Filings	5,484

Dollar amount of Local Property Tax Assessments contested in complaints filed	$6,281,418,660 [1]

1/New Jersey real property tax assessments totaled $134,552,389,320 for 1983. Assessments amounting to 4.7% of this total were contested in complaints filed in the Tax court during the court year ended 6/30/84.

Dollar amount of State Tax assessments contested in complaints filed	$6,004,967.97
Business Personal Property	40,469.18
Corporation Business	4,599,735.82
Corporation Income	93,237.60
Emergency Transportation and Transportation Benefits	10,022.93
Financial Business	57,630.00
Gross Income	161,034.29
Homestead Tax Rebate	*
Motor Fuel Sales	266,568.63
Realty Transfer Fee	5,814.75
Sales and Use	659,779.95
Transfer Inheritance	88,912.66
Other	21,762.16

Number of complaints filed in each filing fee category

	Local Property Tax	State Tax	Equalization and Related	Totals
Regular	2,383	155	21	2,559
Small claims	2,422	457	0	2,879
Transfers, remands, reinstatements	54	4	0	58
Correction of Error and miscellaneous	46	0	0	46
Totals	4,905	616	21	5,542

* No contested tax figures shown in complaints

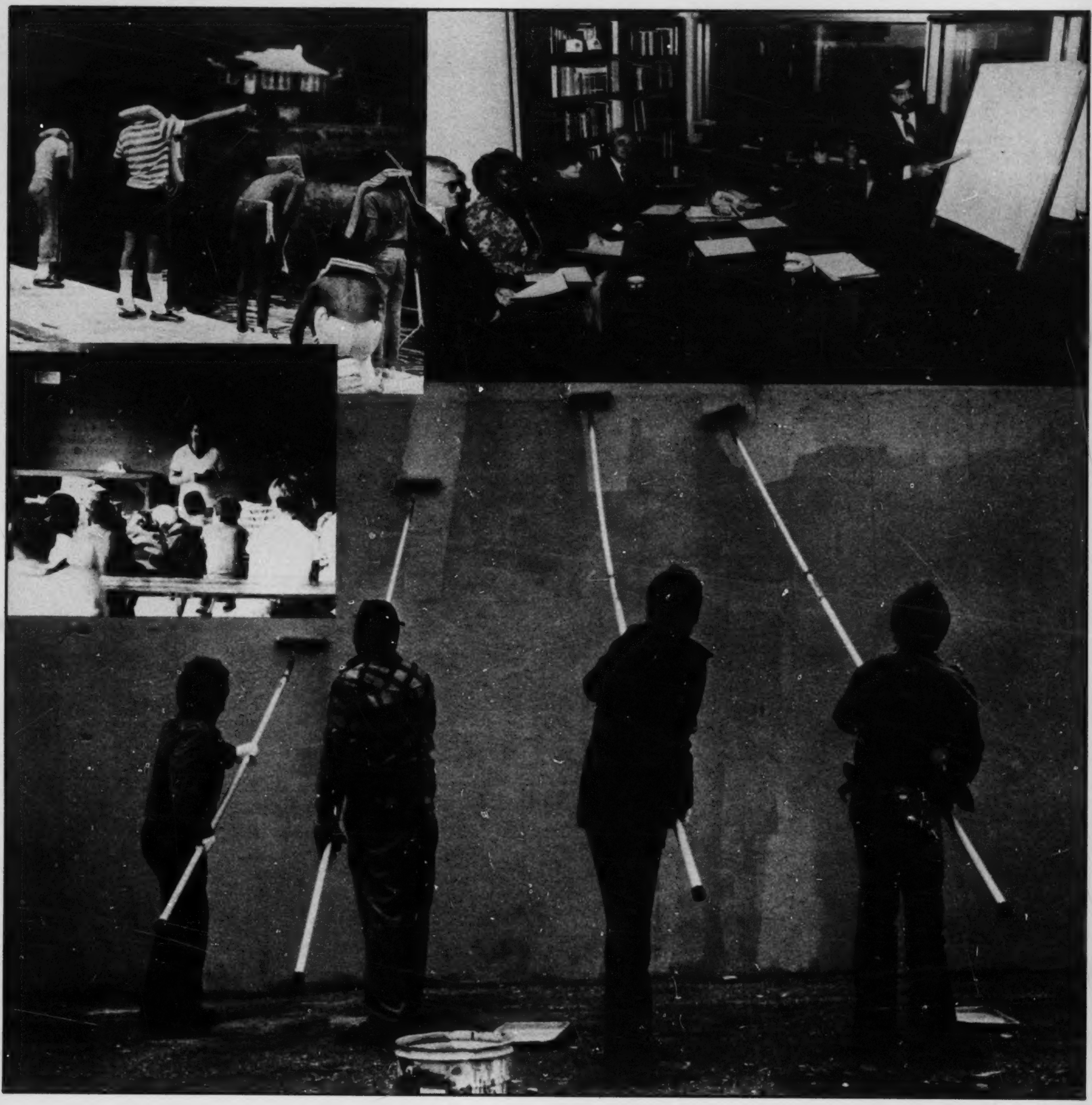
Breakdown by county of local property tax complaint filings for years ended:

	8/31/80	8/31/81	8/31/82	8/31/83	6/30/84
Atlantic	101	144	714	144	348
Bergen	630	876	626	897	580
Burlington	86	102	76	53	32
Camden	105	50	65	81	60
Cape May	23	48	8	74	234
Cumberland	10	14	15	461	19
Essex	1,158	807	744	647	655
Gloucester	25	14	30	56	46
Hudson	357	247	169	434	337
Hunterdon	26	217	46	33	33
Mercer	169	113	147	106	78
Middlesex	407	503	247	383	489
Monmouth	262	191	211	274	296
Morris	160	246	211	289	233
Ocean	99	82	90	166	57
Passaic	332	226	184	273	245
Salem	7	13	3	7	8
Somerset	82	168	130	85	105
Sussex	40	65	33	76	87
Union	319	252	264	269	901
Warren	29	25	26	29	8
Total	4,427	4,403	4,039	4,837	4,851

JULY 1, 1983 - JUNE 30, 1984

SUMMARY OF TAX COURT ACTION IN REVIEW OF LOCAL PROPERTY TAX DIRECT APPEALL COMPLAINTS AND COMPLAINTS SEEKING REVIEW OF JUDGMENTS OF COUNTY BOARDS OF TAXATION

(1) Tax Year Reviewed	(2) Total Assessments On Direct Appeal Complaints Reviewed by Tax Court	(3) Total Assessments as Determined by County Tax Board Judgments in Cases Reviewed by Tax Court	(4) Total of Columns (2) & (3)	(5) Total Decrease in Assessments by Tax Court Below Assessments Shown on Direct Appeals or County Tax Board Judgments	(6) Total Increase in Assessments by Tax Court Above Assessments Shown on Direct Appeals or County Tax Board Judgments	(7) Total Assessment as determined by Tax Court Judgments
1973		2,416,570	2,416,570		2,817,763	5,234,333
1976		41,804,967	41,804,967	15,458,667	11,749,800	38,096,100
1977		94,881,686	94,881,686	6,050,328	953,254	89,784,612
1978		122,280,311	122,280,311	4,796,388	3,638,010	121,121,933
1979	17,449,700	115,412,576	132,862,276	11,543,938	15,126,324	136,444,662
1980	126,903,650	259,030,417	385,934,067	51,099,640	8,779,380	343,613,807
1981	526,289,850	236,140,327	762,430,177	155,790,511	61,552,613	668,192,279
1982	1,360,113,356	517,750,685	1,877,864,041	383,007,060	39,264,905	1,534,121,886
1983	1,649,152,342	283,547,228	1,932,699,570	329,146,440	33,685,600	1,637,238,730
1984	593,987,010	148,751,200	742,738,210	126,017,337	6,349,090	623,069,963
1985	160,783,560	23,199,925	183,983,485	17,985,970	4,570,560	170,568,075
1986	1,523,300		1,523,300	401,200		1,122,100
Totals	4,436,202,768	1,845,215,892	6,281,418,660	1,101,297,479	188,487,299	5,368,608,480



Probation

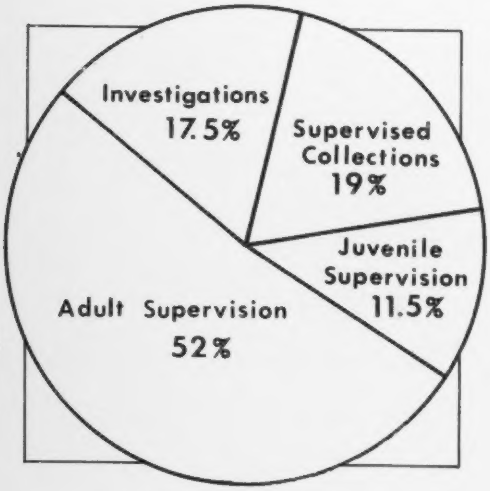
Probation Scenes-Juvenile probationers at a summer program, a staff meeting in Trenton, and offenders on a community service painting assignment.

PROBATION

Probation is a major part of the work of New Jersey courts. Organized at the county level, each of the 21 probation departments is headed by a Chief Probation Officer who reports to the Assignment Judge. Probation is responsible for adult and juvenile supervision, investigations and financial collections required by the courts.

During 1984, adult supervision cases increased by 1% to 43,518 while juvenile cases decreased by 6.3% to 8,855. Juveniles in Need of Supervision (JINS) cases decreased 30.5% to 772 reflecting the enactment of the new Family Court legislation. Investigations decreased by 4.9% to 73,763 and collections in the child support program were 177.7 million, a 12% increase over 1983. Successful discharges from probation, i.e., with no further offenses, totalled 24,104 in 1984, or 81.7% of all discharges.

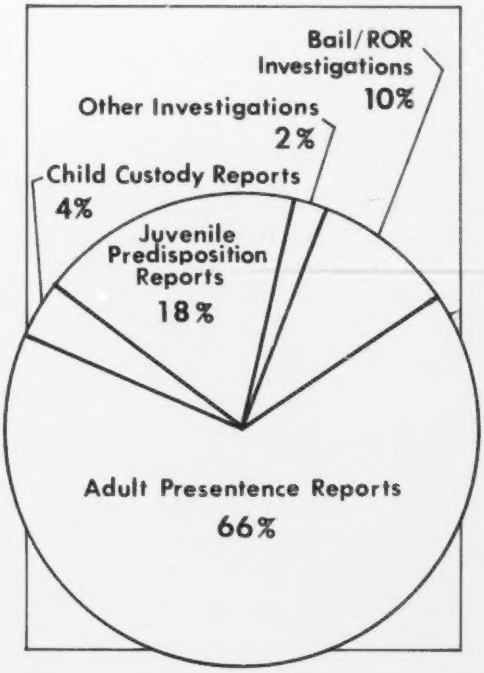
WORKLOAD BY TYPE



INVESTIGATIONS

Conducting investigations is one of the principal activities of the probation department. Most investigations are made to provide information for adult presentence reports to assist the judge in the sentencing decision. In addition, probation personnel prepare juvenile predisposition reports and perform investigations prior to bail or other pretrial release and investigations relating to child custody. Other investigations concern grand juries, work release, juvenile detention, and financial status. The total in 1984 was 73,763 completed investigations. The workload can be divided as follows.

INVESTIGATIONS WORKLOAD



Probation departments completed 20,894 Adult Presentence Superior Court reports, an increase of .9% from 1983.

It is difficult to calculate workload per probation officer in the investigation area. For county probation departments in which an officer is assigned solely to investigations, the monthly average in the state was 14.6 investigations.

INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED
1983 - 1984

LONG FORM	1983	1984	%Change
Superior Court	20,317	20,527	+1.0%
Municipal Court	383	367	-4.2%
TOTAL	20,700	20,894	+ .9%
SHORT FORM			
Superior Court	2,112	2,265	+7.2%
Municipal Court	1,162	792	-31.8%
TOTAL	3,274	3,057	-6.6%
Juvenile Predispositional Reports	6,448	6,043	-6.2%
Bail/ROR Investigations	36,472	33,865	-7.1%
Child Custody Investigations	1,355	1,421	+4.8%
Other Investigations	9,363	8,483	-9.3%
TOTAL	77,612	73,763	-4.9%

ADULT SUPERVISION

The county probation departments' number of adults under probation supervision increased by 1.7% to a total of 43,378 active cases at the end of the court year. The following chart shows the increased workload.

Throughout the state, caseloads in over half of the counties increased; 11 of the 21 county departments supervised more Superior Court probation cases in 1984 than in 1983.

It is difficult to determine the average statewide adult supervision caseload per probation officer. In those offices where the client supervision staff does not conduct investigations, however, the average is 147.7 cases, with a range from 78 to 339 cases per adult supervision officer.

ADULT SUPERVISION
1983 - 1984

	1983	1984	% Change
Superior Court	28,723	30,025	+4.5%
Municipal Court	12,201	11,719	-4.0%
Domestic Relations	1,826	1,774	-2.8%
County Parole	52	-	-
TOTAL	42,802	43,518	+1.7%

JUVENILE SUPERVISION

The number of juveniles under probation supervision declined in 1984 to 9,627. Over the last year, the number of supervision cases has declined by 8.8% or 933 cases.

The decline is a direct result of implementation of the new Code of Juvenile Justice that eliminates the Juvenile in Need of Supervision cases as a sentencing option.

Reports on caseloads for probation officers vary widely around the state for juvenile supervision, as they do for adult supervision. The average, however, is significantly smaller for juvenile supervision. For probation officers who devote full time to supervision and perform no investigations, the average caseload is 67 cases, well under the 147 cases reported for officers with adult cases.

JUVENILE SUPERVISION
1983 - 1984

	1983	1984	% Change
Juvenile Delinquency	9,449	8,855	-6.3%
JINS	1,111	772	-30.5%
TOTAL	10,560	9,627	-8.8%

Clearly, the great majority of probationers successfully met their terms of probation and were not convicted of another offense while under supervision. It is important to note, however, that the categories of discharge have been set up without formal, rigorous definitions or guidelines statewide. As a result, there may be some variance among the categories from county to county. The following table shows the results of cases discharged from supervision in 1984:

In recent years, courts and probation departments have tried to measure the accomplishments of the supervision of probationers. As a measurement of performance of the probation departments, data is now being gathered based on the manner of discharge from probation. Six categories of discharge have been devised. Of the six, two categories may be considered "successful." They are "Discharge - Completed Term" and Discharge - Other" (primarily early terminations before the original term of probation expired.) Three are "unsuccessful": Discharge - Violations of Probation"; "Discharge - New Offenses"; and, "Discharge - Absconder" (a probationer whose whereabouts are unknown). The sixth category ("Deceased") is not included in this calculation.

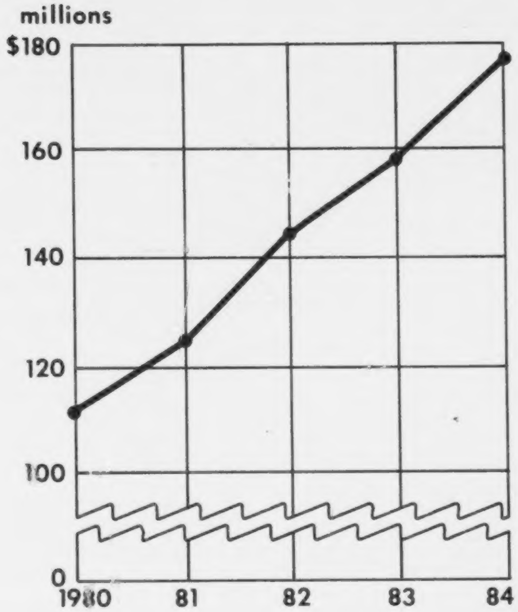
RESULT OF SUPERVISION

	Successful		Unsuccessful		Deceased		Total Discharged
Adult	16,849	79.8%	4,048	19.2%	210	1%	21,107
Juvenile	7,255	86.5%	1,075	12.8%	55	.6%	8,385
TOTAL	24,104	81.7%	5,123	17.3%	265	.9%	29,492

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

One out of every 7.5 children in the State of New Jersey received assistance through the Court's Child Support Enforcement Program. Monitored by the Administrative Office of the Courts and implemented through all 21 county probation departments, Child Support Enforcement Programs are instrumental in stabilizing the income of households where at least one parent is absent and, thereby, reducing the welfare burden for those families already on public assistance.

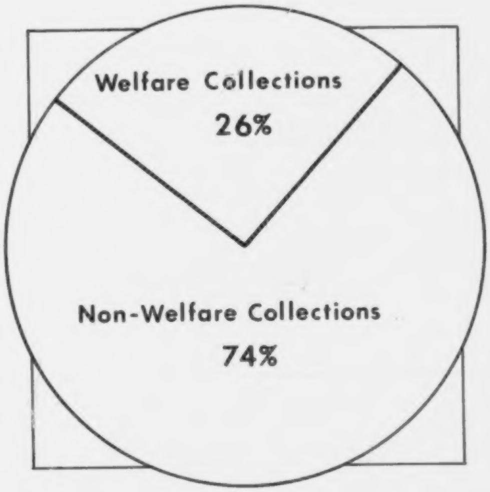
CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS



COLLECTIONS

Child Support payments amounted to $177,740,266 in 1984. This figure represents a 12% increase over collections in 1983. Of that figure, $46,634,541 was collected from individuals on public assistance, thereby increasing funds to the state treasury for those welfare programs. A total of $131,105,725 was collected for families that were not receiving any form of public assistance. The caseload that precipitated these collections has risen 46% over the past five years and 28% since 1983. Adjudicated through the Superior Court - Family Division, 314,000 children received an average of $996.88 per year, a $22.91 increase since 1983. There was 9% more cases in 1984, totaling 178,297 Child Support cases.

WELFARE/NON-WELFARE COLLECTIONS

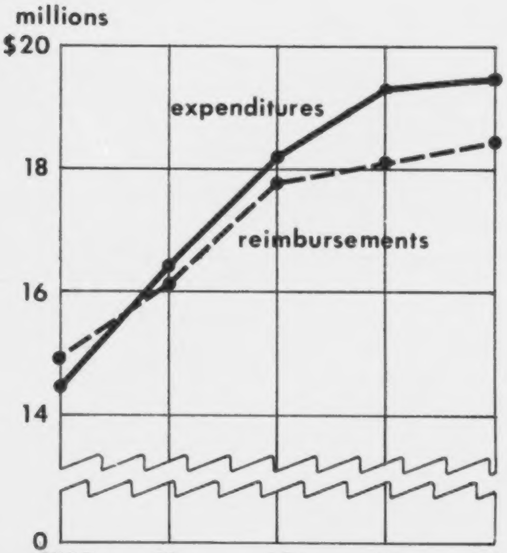


EXPENDITURES

A total of $19,552,424 was expended to run the Courts' Child Support Enforcement Programs in 1984. This represents a 1% increase over the 1983 cost. Reimbursements and incentive payments from the federal government on public assistance cases offset 95% of all costs. There was a net increase of 15,151 new cases requiring child support enforcement.

For every dollar spent on the enforcement of these programs in 1984, $9.10 was collected, an increase of 9% over 1983. This figure is even more impressive considering that there was no significant change in staffing since 1983.

EXPENDITURES/REIMBURSEMENTS



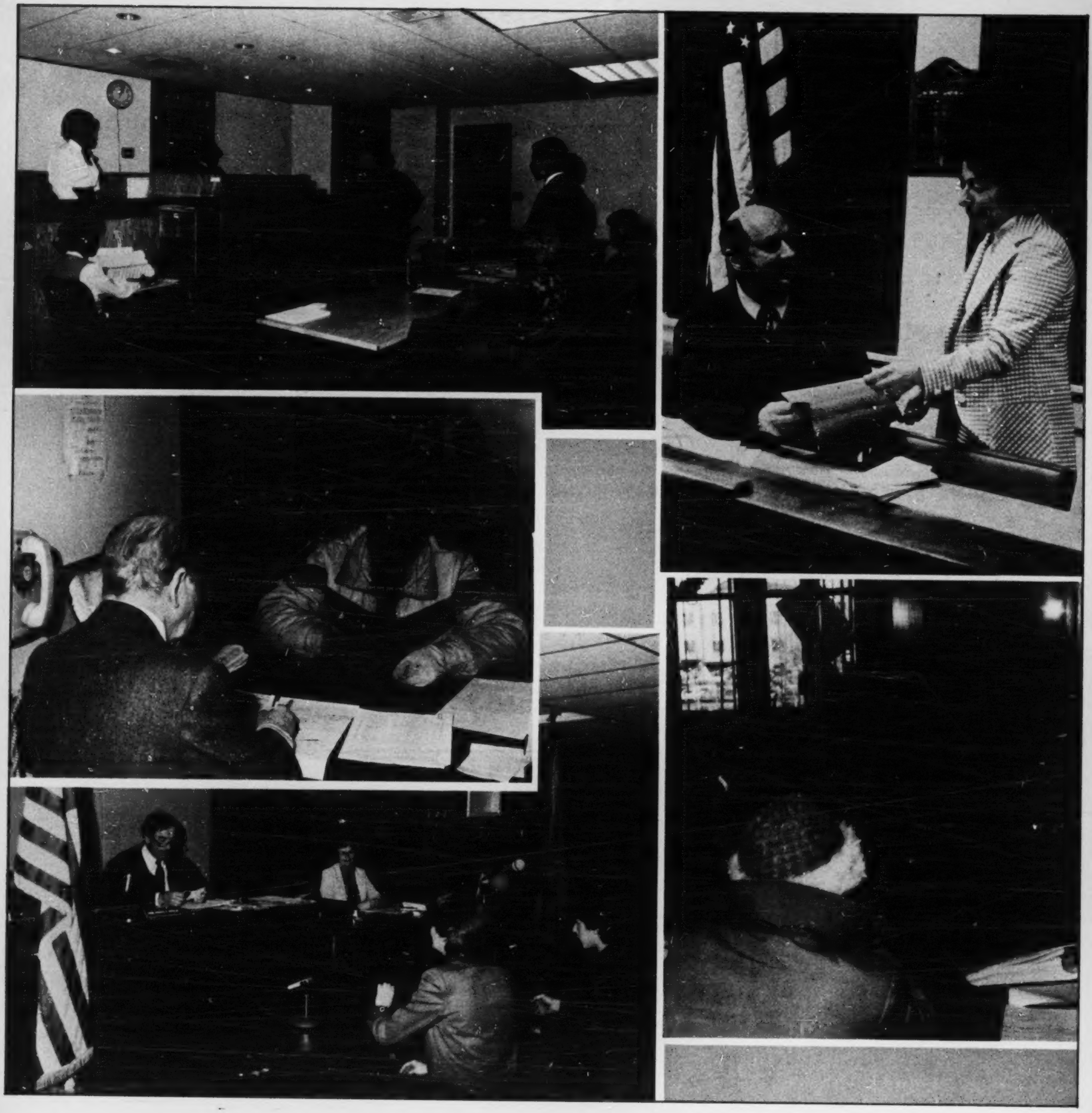
NEW PROJECTS

In March, 1984, the New Jersey Supreme Court approved the use of hearing officers to conduct child support establishment and enforcement hearings for a one year trial experimental period. The Jersey Child Support Entorcement efforts in July, 1983. This computer system will tie the county probation departments, family court clerks' office, and county welfare agencies with the State Division of Public Welfare and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Since the inception of the project in November, 1983 the Automated Child Support Enforcement System (ACSES) staff have completed a modification study in Middlesex County and have completed conversion studies in 7 other counties. To date, all project phases involving the ACSES staff have been completed on schedule.

Hearing officers will not initiate actions nor will they determine their final outcome. Rather, they will make recommendations to the Presiding Judge of the local Family Divisions. Each recommendation will be submitted to the Presiding Judge with a hearing fact sheet for the judge's review and approval.

Employed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, the hearing officers will be under the day-to-day supervision of the Presiding Family Division Judges of the county to which they are assigned. The Administrative Office of the Courts will provide personnel, training, logistical, and statistical support services to the hearing officers and periodically rotate them among the regions and change regional boundaries.

The Federal Child Support Enforcement Program approved a multi-million dollar grant to the State of New Jersey to implement a statewide computer system for New



Municipal Courts

Scenes from Municipal Court in Newark, Mendham and Allentown.

MUNICIPAL COURTS

The municipal courts of the State of New Jersey have been created and established by the Legislature pursuant the New Jersey Constitution by the passage of Chapter 8 of Title 2A. Practice and procedure in the municipal courts are governed generally by Part VII of the New Jersey Court Rules. Part III of the Court Rules has general applicability to the criminal, quasi-criminal and penal actions heard in the municipal courts. N.J.S.A. 2A:8-1, permits any municipality or any two or more municipalities entering into an inter-municipal agreement by ordinance to establish a municipal court. In 1984, there were 531 municipal courts in the State, 14 of which were inter-municipal or joint courts serving more than one municipality.

JUDGES

The judges are appointed by the local governing body, except in joint courts where appointment is by the Governor with the advice and consent of the State. Municipal court judges serve for a term of three years and until their successor is appointed and qualified. There is no tenure of office for municipal court judges, nor is there a mandatory retirement age, conditions of office which distinguish these judges from all others in the Judiciary.

The number of municipal court judges holding office during the 1984 court year was 369, of which 1 was a non-lawyer and the remaining 368 were attorneys. This represents an increase of 5 in the total number of judges compared to 1983. The number of non-lawyers judges decreased by one from 1983.

Of the 369 judges presiding over the minicipal courts, 94 judges presided over more than one court in 1984 compared to 84 judges in 1983. The number of judges presiding over more than one court in 1984 represents a five year high as the chart below indicates. Most of the multi-court judges presided over two of three courts; however, one judge presided over 13 courts and another over 9 courts.

1984: 94
1983: 84
1982: 87
1981: 91
1980: 88

In 12 municipalities, the municipal courts have more than one judge. There were 34 judges in these courts, which have the largest case loads among the municipal courts.

Very few municipal court judges devote their full-time to judicial duties. The vast majority serve part-time and maintain private law practices. Five courts had full-time judges during 1984, the same as in 1983.

JURISDICTION

The municipal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction. Under N.J.S.A. 2A:8-21 and 22, the municipal courts have jurisdiction over motor vehicle and traffic violations, ordinance violations, disorderly and petty disorderly persons offenses, certain Penalty Enforcement Actions (N.J.S.A. 2A:58-1, et seq.) such as fish and game violations, specified criminal offenses and probable cause hearings on indictable offenses. The territorial jurisdiction of these courts generally extends to the boundaries of the municipalities served by the joint court.

APPEALS

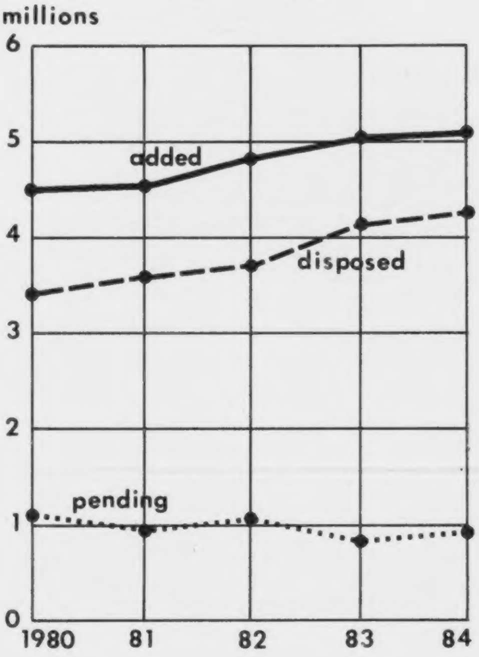
Appeals from the municipal courts are taken to the Superior Court, Law Division as cases de novo. However, since the introduction of sound recording in the municipal courts, the Superior Court judge rehears the case by review of the sound recording transcript and supplemental oral argument by the attorneys of pro se appellants. This method of re-trial on appeal has reduced Superior Court bench time.

CASELOAD

The years 1980 - 1984 have been years of continuous increase in case filings. dispositions have also continuously increased throughout the five year period.

The municipal courts handle the vast majority of minor offenses. In the 1984 court year, 5,160,506 complaints were filed. This figure exceeds the number of complaints in 1983 by 153,184 or 3.1%. Complaints filed reached a new high, increasing by 3.1%. Total dispositions decreased slightly by 0.6%. Pending cases increased by 43.4% as compared to 1983. Dispositions totalled 4,234,553, 37,196 short of the high reached in 1983. The table below compares the 1984 figures to those of 1983.

CASELOAD TRENDS
1980 - 1984



CASELOAD

	1983*	1984	% Change
Complaints filed	5,007,322	5,160,506	+3.1
Dispositions	4,361,636	4,234,553	-0.6
Pending	645,868	925,953	+43.4

* It should be noted that the figures for 1983 (Sept. 1, 1982 - August 31, 1983) are estimated due to the change in reporting requirements, effective July 1, 1983.

The municipal court workload contains three separate components: parking violations, traffic violations, and criminal proceedings.

PARKING

Parking violations made up about 64% of all complaints filed in the municipal courts in 1984. The number of violations rose by 173,168 or by about 5.5% over 1983.

Understaffing problems require that parking cases receive a lower priority than traffic and criminal cases. The rate of dispositions for parking cases is therefore lower than in the other two workload components.

Dispositions totaled 2,415,062 a decrease of 55,503 from 1983. In the two prior years, dispositions had risen 14.5% in 1983 over 1982 and 3.9% in 1982 over 1981.

Most dispositions in parking violations, 80.9% of the total, are handled by the violations bureau. This is a drop of over 13% from 1983 when 94% of these cases were so handled and may explain the drop in the disposition rate.

The chart below shows filings, dispositions, and rates of disposition in the parking category for 1983 and 1984.

TRAFFIC

Traffic complaints make up about 28.5% of all complaints filed in the municipal courts and about 33.9% of all complaints disposed of in the municipal courts.

Traffic filings increased in the past year by 5,069 or about 3/10 of 1%. While the increase in 1984 was slight, filings have increased each year since 1979, except for 1981.

The rate of dispositions in traffic continues to improve. It increased from 96.0% in 1983 to 97.8% in 1984. In 1982 the dispositon rate was 91.0%.

Most traffic cases, like parking complaints, are disposed of by the violations bureau. Of those tried in court (29% of the total dispositions), there were 345,804 cases disposed of by convictions and guilty pleas in open court and 99,655 by dismissals and findings of not guilty. About 53% of all bench time is devoted to the disposition of traffic and parking matters. While this is a significant amount of all municipal court bench time, the court rules require court appearances in some more serious traffic offenses, such as drunk driving, even if the defendant intends to plead guilty.

PARKING VIOLATIONS

	1983	1984	% Change
Added	3,132,167	3,305,335	+5.5%
Disposed	2,470,565	2,415,062	-2.2%
Rate of Disp.	78.9%	73.1%	-7.4%

The chart below shows filings, dispositions, and rates of disposition in the traffic category.

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

	1983*	1984	% Change
Added	1,463,591	1,468,660	+0.3%
Disposed	1,404,722	1,437,559	+2.3%
Rate of Disp.	96.0%	97.9%	+2.0%

CRIMINAL

In criminal matters, filings declined by 25,053 or about 6.1%. Dispositions in court and through the violations bureau nevertheless increased by 4,679 over 1983. This is an increase of about 1.5%.

Dispositions included 3,386 indictable complaints adjudicated in the municipal court on waiver of indictment and jury trial. The remainder of the dispositions involving non-indictable offenses included among them 31,552 cases disposed of through the violations bureau. There were 9,072 conditional discharges and 166,589 guilty pleas in open court.

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS

	1983*	1984	% Change
Added	411,564	386,511	-6.1
Disposed	396,462	381,932	-3.7
Rate of Disp.	96.3%	98.8%	+2.5

(Dispositions include cases referred to County Prosecutor and Family Court)

DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE

Adjudicated in Mun. Ct. on Waiver of Indict. & Jury Trial	3,386
Through Violations Bureau	31,552
Dismissals After Conditional Discharge	9,072
Convictions & Guilty Pleas in Open Court	166,589
Dismissed & Findings of Not Guilty	100,655
Total	311,254

In addition to the 311,254 dispositions listed above, 70,678 cases were referred to the County Prosecutor or to other courts. There were, therefore, a total of 381,932 criminal cases disposed of in the municipal courts in this manner. There were 386,511 cases added, thus resulting in a disposition rate of 98.8% for 1984.

SENTENCE PROFILE
1983 - 1984

	1983*	1984	% Change
Jail	14,356	12,015	+18.5%
Probation	11,024	8,168	-25.9%
Suspended Sentence	20,187	10,563	-47.7%

Of those defendants convicted in the municipal courts of criminal violations, 17,015 defendants were sentenced to jail, 8,168 were placed on probation, and 10,563 received suspended sentences. As the table below shows, jail sentences increased in 1984 in comparison to 1983, while probation and suspended sentences decreased substantially.

NOTICE IN LIEU OF COMPLAINT

The notice in lieu of complaint is a document generated by the court requiring the person to whom the notice is addressed to appear and discuss the particulars of a minor neighborhood or domestic dispute. The matter is discussed by the disputing parties in the presence of the judge or a person designated by the court and approved by the Assignment Judge. This conference results in the recommendation that a formal complaint should or should not be issued, and frequently leads to settlement of the dispute, making a trial unnecessary. The developing use of conferences presided over by a person designated by the court and approved by the Assignment Judge allows the municipal courts to devote its limited resources to more serious offenses.

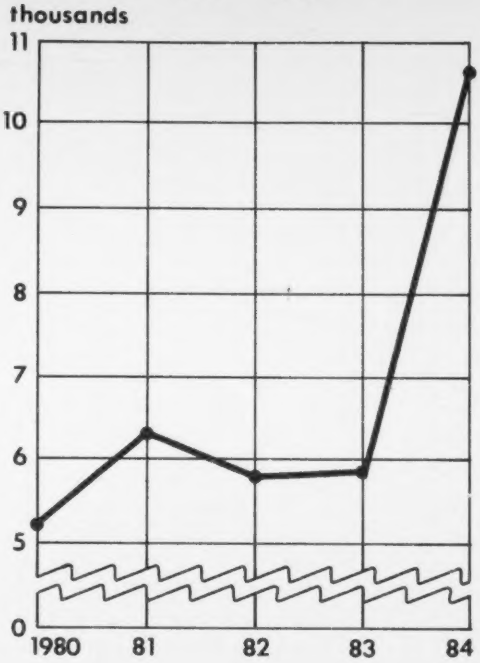
In 1984, 10,619 notices in lieu of complaint were generated. This is a substantial increase of 4,729 over 1983 when 5,890 such notices were generated. In the 1982 court year, 5,862 notices were generated. The substantial increase in 1984 may be due to the development of neighborhood dispute resolution programs in a number of the municipal courts thus enabling the courts to devote their time to more serious cases and alleviate the overload. The following graph shows the five year picture for the notices in lieu of complaint.

SUMMONS IN LIEU OF WARRANT

For some time, the Administrative Office of the Courts has emphasized that the summons is the favored form of process unless circumstances require the use of the warrant. This policy applies to indictable offenses as well as non-indictable offenses. The efforts to educate elements of the criminal justice system to the increased use of summonses have been successful as there has been a steady increase in the percentage of summonses issued in both indictable and non-indictable matters. Effective for the 1981 court year, the rules of court governing the procedure of issuance of court process (Rule 3:3-1 and Rule 3:4-1) were amended to contain detailed guidelines on the issuance of the warrant.

The percentage of summonses decreased slightly for non-indictable matters in the 1984 court year to 79.6% from a high of 79.9% in 1983. The percentage of summonses decreased slightly for indictable matters in the 1984 court year to 26.7% from 27.6% in the 1983 court year. The 1981 court year represented the five year high at 28.2%. The leveling off in the percentage of summonses issued may be due in part to the amended court rules which require a warrant under certain circumstances.

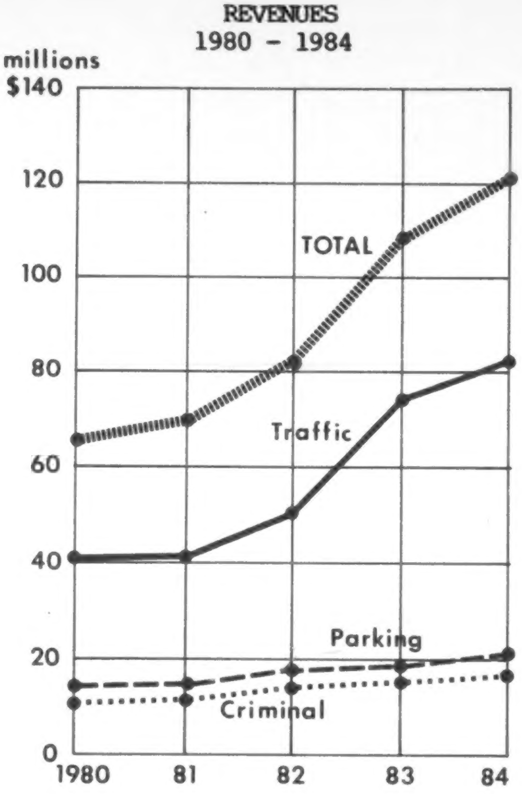
NOTICES IN LIEU OF COMPLAINTS
1980 - 1984



SUMMONS/WARRANT INDICTABLES AND NON-INDICTABLES
1980 -1984

	1980	%	1981	%	1982	%	1983*	%	1984	%
Indictable										
Summons	19,712	21.3%	29,320	28.2%	27,304	25.8%	29,755	27.6%	25,027	26.7%
Warrant	72,745	78.7%	74,678	71.8%	78,602	74.2%	77,914	72.4%	68,796	73.3%
Non-Indictable										
Summons	143,733	69.8%	173,550	78.4%	184,782	79.5%	183,641	79.9%	163,143	79.6%
Warrant	62,043	30.2%	47,829	21.6%	47,572	20.5%	46,244	20.1%	41,747	20.4%

REVENUES



Parking revenues rose by $1,236,488 to $20,470,860. This figure equals about 16.8% of all revenues generated by the municipal courts in the State, a slight drop from 1983 when parking revenues equalled about 17.5% of all such revenues. In 1982, parking revenues equalled 21.6% of all revenues generated. Over the past two court years, the percentage of parking revenues to all revenues has been declining. Revenues per disposition for 1984 were $8.48 compared to $7.79 for 1983, an increase of 8.9%.

Traffic revenues represent a large percentage of the total revenues generated by the municipal courts, about 68.5%. Thus, revenues generated by the disposition of traffic complaints total about $2 out of every $3 of municipal court assessments, despite the fact that traffic complaints disposed of represent only about 1 out of every 3 cases.

Revenues from traffic increased in 1984 by $8,773,922 or about 11.8% from $74,590,278 in 1983 to $83,364,200 in 1984. In 1983, the increase was 45.2% and in 1982, 24.3%. Thus, the slow rate of increase in the 1981 court year has been followed by substantial increases in the succeeding years.

The continuing increase in traffic revenues may be due to the increase in fines for moving violations that went into effect on September 1, 1982 and to recent legislation which requires that a traffic fine be paid off in 6 months or the defendant risks the loss of his driver's license.

Traffic revenues per disposition in 1984 were $57.99 compared to $53.21 for 1983, an increase of 9%.

Fines received for violations of local traffic ordinances are remitted to the municipality. Through calendar year 1982, most fines received from State violations were remitted to the county. Beginning in calendar year 1983, the Legislature established a revenue sharing procedure between the county and the municipality. In any event, if the complaint is instituted by the state police or the Divison of Motor Vehicles, the revenue goes to the State.

Revenue assessed in criminal cases rose about $1.87 million from 1983 to $17,860,567 in 1984. Criminal case revenue assessments are significant, about 14.7% of total revenues, given the fact that criminal cases make up only 9.0% of dispositions. It seems clear that the increased revenue from criminal cases reflects the operation of the Code of Criminal Justice and the higher fines for disorderly persons violations authorized by the code.

Total revenues during 1984 rose to record levels. The municipal courts assessed $121,695,627 in 1984 as compared to $109,817,517 in 1983, an increase of $11,876,110 or 10.8%. Revenues increased in 1983 by 31.4% over 1982. Revenues increased in 1982 by 18.4% over 1981. The last three years, therefore, have reversed the 1980-1981 figures which had pointed to a slowing down in the yearly increase of revenues generated. The graph below demonstrates this reversal. Significantly, the municipal courts collected $120,306,288 in 1984 out of the $121,695,627 assessed, or almost 98.9% of revenues generated.

JUDICIAL PRODUCTIVITY

The 369 municipal court judges in 1984 spent 113,921 hours on the bench, a decrease from last year of 13,714 hours.

JUDICIAL BENCH HOURS

	1983*	1984	% Change
Judges	364	369	+1.4%
Bench hrs.	127,635	113,921	-10.7%
Bench hrs. per yr. per judge	351	308.7	-12.1%
Bench hrs. per wk. per judge	6.75	5.94	-12.0%

COMMUNITY SERVICE SENTENCING

The community service sentence is becoming a viable alternative used by many municipal court judges in conjunction with county probation. The municipal courts have assigned 5,640 drunk driving cases and 2,604 criminal cases to community service in the year ending August of 1984. Total program enrollment as of August 31, 1984 was 5,804 in the drunk driving area, an increase of 81% over the same time in 1983. Total program enrollment as of August 31, 1984 was 2,075 in the criminal area, an increase of 119% over 1983. Drunk driving represented 45% of the community service caseload statewide.

VIOLENT CRIMES COMPENSATION BOARD

The VCCB program for collection of the penalty has been in operation in municipal courts since 1981. The $25 penalty is applicable for convictions on all petty disorderly persons offenses, disorderly persons offenses and those crimes heard in the municipal courts on waiver of indictment and trial by jury. Figures from January 1981 through June of 1984 indicate an assessment compliance rate of 98.9%; a total of 115,677 penalties were imposed out of 116,973 eligible cases.

Figures from January, 1981 through June, 1984 indicate a collection rate of 81.6% of the total assessed; total assessments were approximately $2,891,925 while collections totalled $2,358,527.

DRUNK DRIVING BACKLOG PROGRAM

Responding to the backlog of drunk driving cases, the Supreme Court adopted as a goal a 60-day time limit from arrest to disposition for complaints charging offenses under N.J.S.A.39:4-50, Operations or Allowing Operation by Persons Under the Influence of Liquor or Drugs, and N.J.S.A.39:4-50.4(a), Refusal to Submit to Chemical Test. In conjunction with this policy, on July 26, 1984, the Chief Justice directed that the judge, or where applicable the presiding judge, of each municipal court with a backlog of drunk driving cases submit to the Assignment Judge of his vicinage within 60 days a written plan to eliminate the backlog no later than May 1, 1985.

DRB·CSF· Attorney Ethics

(Top) Trustees of the Clients' Security Fund of the Bar of New Jersey (left to right) Robert E. Wade, Esq.; William R. Holzapfel, Esq.; James J. McLaughlin, Esq.; Howard Stern, Esq., Chair; Dana Dowd Williams, Treasurer; and Henry Gorelick, Esq.

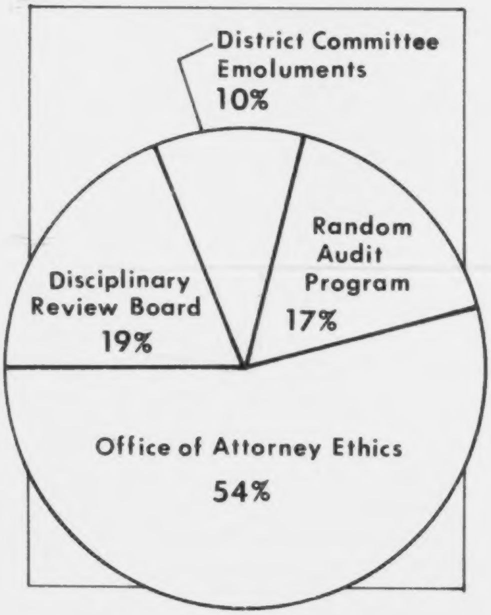
(Bottom) Members of the Disciplinary Review Board (left to right) Waldron Kraemer, Esq.; Honorable Eugene L. Lora; Mrs. J. Duncan Pitney; Richard A. Grossman, Esq.; John A. Yacovelle, Esq., Chair; Shirley A. O'Neill, Esq., Vice Chair; James R. Zazzalli, Esq.; and Mr. Joseph B. Kenney. (Absent-Rabbi Gershon B. Chertoff)

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY ETHICS

The Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE) was created by the Supreme Court of New Jersey on October 19, 1983. The OAE assists the Supreme Court in the discharge of its constitutional responsibility to supervise and discipline attorneys admitted in this State.

New Jersey's disciplinary system is funded exclusively by members of the Bar. No public tax dollars are involved. The Supreme Court requires the payment of an annual fee by all non-exempt attorneys "to be utilized for the attorney discipline and fee arbitration system", R.1:20-2 (b). For calendar year 1984, the annual fee for attorney discipline and related functions was $55 for attorneys in their 5th through 50th calendar years of admissions and $35 for attorneys in their 3rd and 4th calendar years of admission. These fees provided a budget of $1.1 million, allocated as follows:

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES



The OAE is responsible for investigation and prosecution of grievances before the Disciplinary Review Board and the Supreme Court, and conducts a random audit program to ensure compliance with court rules on attorney record-keeping. It also administers the 16 District Ethics Committees, which usually serve as the initial hearing level in the attorney grievance process, and the 16 District Fee Arbitration Committees, which hear and determine fee disputes between clients and their attorneys. Both ethics and fee arbitration committees are composed of volunteer lawyers and public members, all of whom are appointed by the Supreme Court and serve without compensation. They receive and investigate all grievances and fee disputes involving lawyers in their districts.

The OAE has exclusive jurisdiction over the investigation and prosecution of the following categories of disciplinary cases:

- all serious and complex matters, and those requiring emergent action;
- all cases in which an attorney is a defendant in any criminal proceeding, regardless of the outcome of that proceeding;
- any case in which a District Ethics Committee requests intervention;
- any case in which a District Ethics Committee has not resolved the matter within one year of the filing of the grievance; and
- any case in which the Disciplinary Review Board or the Supreme Court determines that the matter should be assigned to it.

One of the most important responsibilities of the OAE involves emergent action taken in the public interest. In emergent circumstances, this involves petitioning the Supreme Court in order to secure an attorney's temporary suspension from the practice of law "where necessary to protect the interests of an attorney, a client or the public..." R.1:20-4 (g) and R.1:20-5 (b).

During calendar year 1984, 25 temporary suspensions were secured. In addition, two attorneys had restrictions placed upon their licenses to practice, pending the outcome of final disciplinary proceeding. Three other attorneys were transferred to disability inactive status. Temporary suspensions were sought primarily in instances where clear evidence of misappropriation of trust funds exists, or where an attorney has been convicted of a serious crime.

GRIEVANCES

A total of 1,079 grievances were filed against 802 New Jersey attorneys in 1984, a decrease from 1983 of 23% in the number of attorneys involved. The number of attorneys involved in grievances represents 3.1% of the 25,556 active attorneys in 1984.

Grievances are allegations of dissatisfaction or improper conduct which are usually filed by clients. Only a very small proportion of grievances are ultimately found to involve unethical conduct.

A total of 1,627 grievances were disposed in 1984, an increase of 12% over 1983. Most of the increase in dispositions can be traced to increased efforts last year by the OAE and District Ethics Committees to reduce the statewide ethics caseload. In addition to the work of the district committees, the New Jersey Bar Association was instrumental in securing a number of specially appointed volunteers to assist the districts in reducing their caseload. The result has also been a significant decrease in the number of grievances pending. At the end of 1984, 1,241 grievances were pending, a 35% decrease from the 1,685 cases pending at the end of 1983.

The 1984 dispositions resulted in disciplinary action against 69 attorneys. Sanctions include private reprimand, public reprimand, suspension and disbarment. Of the 69 attorneys disciplined in 1984, 27 received private reprimands, 3 received public reprimands, 13 were suspended and 26 were disbarred, or disbarred by consent.

The OAE also has responsibility for the Supreme Court's Random Audit Compliance Program, which conducts compliance audits of attorney trust and business accounts to see that mandatory recordkeeping practices are followed by all lawyers. At the suggestion of the New Jersey State Bar Association the program was expanded by the Supreme Court in May, 1984 by the addition of three new auditors. The program is now the largest in the nation, currently employing five full-time auditors. A total of 367 random audits were completed during the year in 13 of the state's 21 counties.

FEE ARBITRATION

The Attorney Fee Arbitration Program, which was part of the District Ethics Committee system until 1978, provides services in the event of a fee dispute between a client and attorney. In creating the program, the Court recognized that in the vast majority of cases there is a satisfactory relationship between client and attorney over fees, and that the caseload would be small relative to the hundreds of thousands of attorney-client relationships in any given year. However, the Court felt that the program would provide a valuable service in maintaining public confidence in the judicial system.

During 1984, for the third consecutive year, the number of fee arbitration cases submitted to the 16 District Fee Arbitration Committees decreased. A total of 662 disputes were submitted, compared to 679 in 1983. The Committees disposed of 740 cases during the year, leaving 244 pending at the close of the year.

The Committees are made up of volunteer attorneys and public members appointed by the Court. Fee arbitration is mandatory for attorneys and the client must consent to be bound by the decision of the Committee. Disputes are heard by panels of three Committee members, usually two attorneys and one public member. There is no appeal from Committee determinations on the merits, but a limited right of appeal to the Disciplinary Review Board is permitted in certain circumstances.

DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

The Disciplinary Review Board was established by the Supreme Court in 1978 with statewide jurisdiction as the intermediate level between the District Ethics Committees and the Supreme Court. The nine-member Board, consisting of six attorneys and three non-attorneys, hears oral argument on presentments for public discipline of members of the Bar from the various District Ethics Committees. The Board independently considers all the evidence developed by the District Ethics Committee and makes its own determination on each matter, and then recommends to the Supreme Court what discipline, if any, should be imposed. The Board may also, in its discretion, direct that an Ethics Committee's recommendation for a private reprimand be treated as a presentment. The Board has authority to impose private reprimands or to dismiss the charges after considering the matter. It also can direct that costs be reimbursed when discipline is imposed.

The Board also reviews appeals from dismissals of ethics complaints by the District Ethics Committees and appeals from determinations of District Fee Arbitration Committees. It also hears motions for temporary suspension of attorneys and considers applications of suspended attorneys seeking reinstatement to practice law.

The Board members are appointed by the Court for three-year terms and may be reappointed in the Court's discretion. The Board meets monthly. The Office of Disciplinary Review Board Counsel provides both legal and administrative support to the Board. Board Counsel, at times, also represents the Board before the Supreme Court and serves as secretariat for the Board.

The workload of the Board has increased significantly since 1980. The number of cases disposed of annually by the Board has increased from 224 in 1980 to 313 in 1983.

Year	Number of Cases
1979	228
1980	224
1981	271
1982	312
1983	313

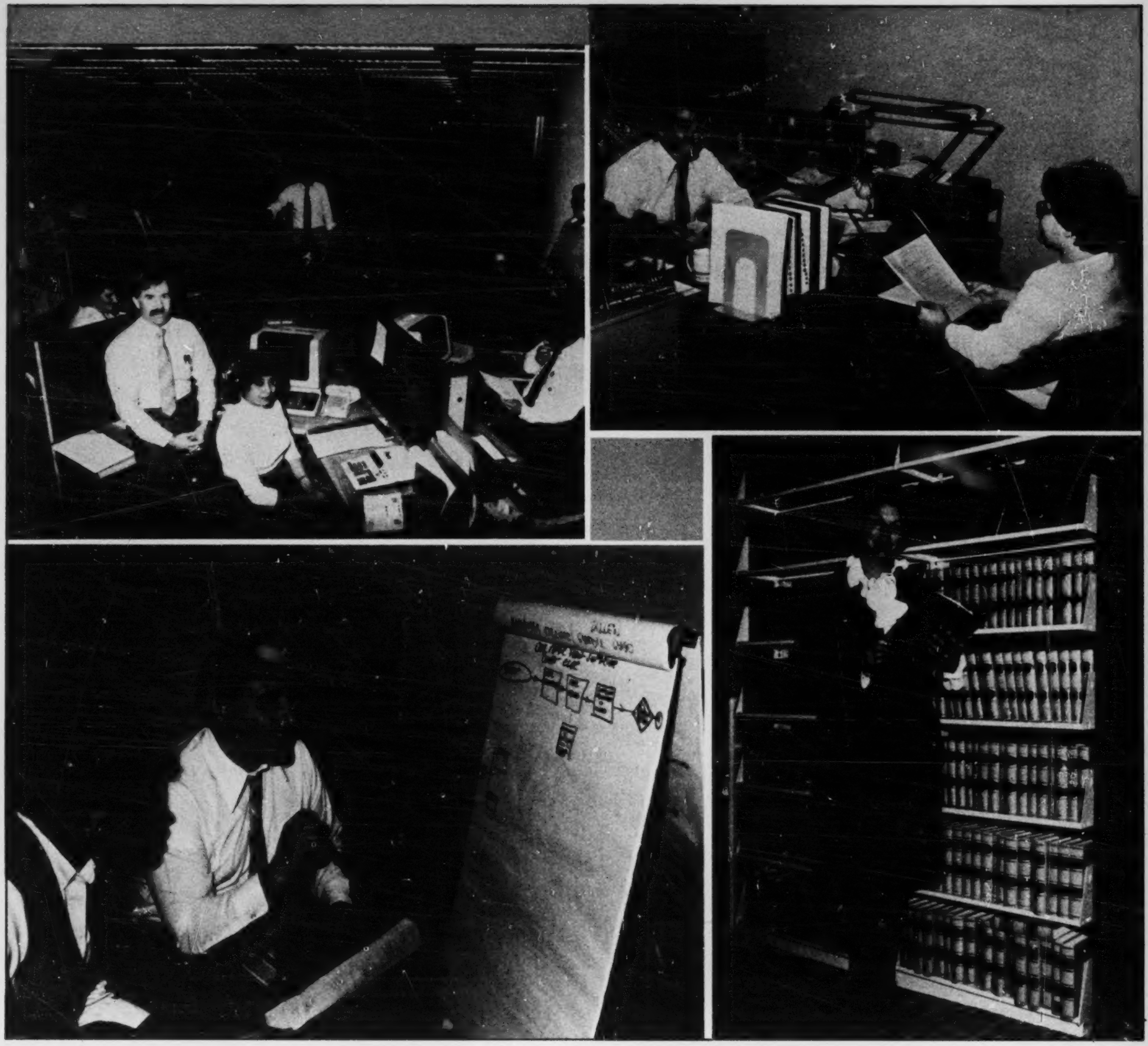
The greatest increase in 1983 was in the number of appeals filed from dismissals of District Ethics Committees and District Fee Arbitration Committees. Of the total number of cases disposed of in 1983, 198, or about 63%, were ethics and fee arbitration appeals. There were 179 ethics appeals and 19 fee appeals. In 1983, the number of presentments decided by the Board was 44, an increase of four over 1982. The number of private reprimands imposed was 28, an increase of eight.

CLIENTS' SECURITY FUND

Clients who feel that they have suffered out-of-pocket financial loss as a result of their attorney's dishonest conduct may make a claim to the Clients' Security Fund of the Bar of the State of New Jersey. Established as a cooperative effort between the Supreme Court and the New Jersey State Bar Association, the Fund is supported by yearly payments from members of the bar. In 1984, the payment was $50. The Fund Trustees, appointed by the Supreme Court and comprised of members of the bar and public, review claims and hold hearings.

The Fund has the authority to institute court proceedings for the appointment of a custodial receiver to take over the assets of any attorney found misusing clients' money in order to ascertain, conserve and distribute same for the benefit of injured clients.

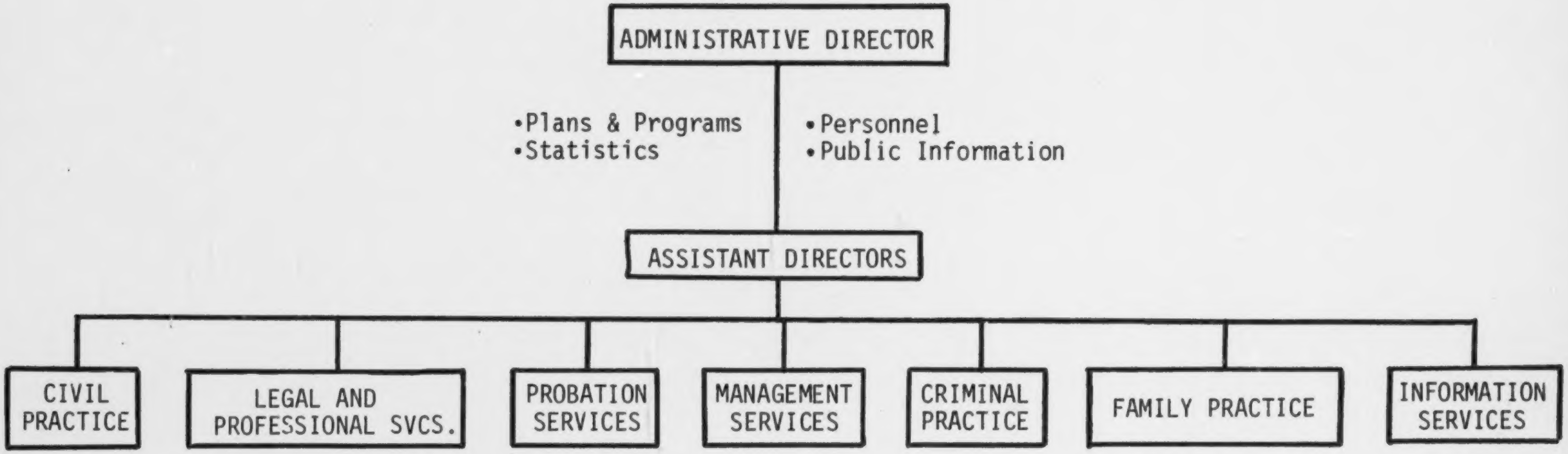
In 1984, 160 claims were filed involving 40 attorneys, a decrease from 220 claims involving 45 attorneys in 1983. The Fund Trustees approved 131 claims for payment



Administrative Office of the Courts

AOC Staff-the Statistical Services Unit (top left, clockwise) Judicial Education, Library Services, Legal Systems and Procedures.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS


ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
•Plans & Programs
•Statistics
•Personnel
•Public Information
ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
CIVIL PRACTICE
LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL SVCS.
PROBATION SERVICES
MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CRIMINAL PRACTICE
FAMILY PRACTICE
INFORMATION SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Office of the Administrative Director is responsible to the Chief Justice for the administration of all court operations. The Administrative Director supervises and manages the Administrative Office, and reviews the clerks' office and trial court operations around the state.

Within the Director's Office, relations with the Supreme Court, the Appellate Division, the Assignment Judges, and all other judges are coordinated. The Director's Office develops and outlines the implementation of major improvement programs in the Judiciary or in the AOC itself. The meetings of the Supreme Court Administrative Conference and of the Assignment Judges are planned and coordinated.

During the last court year, the Director's Office was involved in all of the projects described below. The particular programs that received special attention were the implementation of the Criminal and Family trial court support system proposals, the work of the Civil Case Management task force, the beginning of the study of municipal courts, the Intensive Supervision Program, the Youth Services Commission, and the Speedy Trial Program.

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

The Plans and Programs Unit has responsibility for several activities relating to the trial courts and the AOC. It functions as part of the Director's Office with assignments including county government liaison, work with Trial Court Administrators (TCA's), project coordination within the AOC, overall strategy for program development, technical assistance to the trial courts on case processing and records management, and a variety of other projects.

The unit serves as staff to the County/Judiciary Liaison Committee, the County Clerks' Liaison Committee, the Judiciary/Sheriffs' Liaison Committee, the Civil Court Support System Committee, and the Committee on Court-Held Funds.

During the 1984 court year, the unit staff met regularly with the TCA's to discuss programs and developments that affect the trial court structure. Plans and Programs developed a seminar on county budgeting for the courts, an information base on county expenses and personnel related to the courts, and the development of a proposed support system for the Civil Division.

Internal AOC coordination included budget strategy and planning, project reports, and some program analysis. During the 1984 court year, the staff worked with the Management Services Division on a revised procedure for budget development and reporting on programs.

Plans and Programs includes a unit on Legal Systems and Procedures. This unit is primarily responsible for technical assistance to the trial courts in the area of case processing, records management, and clerks' office procedures. It assists the trial courts in all types of cases and works closely with the Assignment Clerks, Deputy Clerks of Superior Court, and other trial court units. It worked during 1984 on the Judicial Conference on Civil Litigation and the revised structure of the clerks' office operations that support civil litigation.

LIAISON COMMITTEES

Four committees operate to serve as means of communication and liaison with different groups:

. County/Judiciary Liaison Committee, chaired by Chief Justice Robert Wilentz.

. County Clerks' Liaison Committee, chaired by Associate Justice Stewart G. Pollock.

. Judiciary/Sheriffs' Liaison Committee, chaired by Assignment Judge I.V. DiMartino.

. Surrogates/Judiciary Liaison Committee, chaired by Assignment Judge Edward W. Beglin.

The committees include both judges and top-level representatives of county governments and the particular groups involved in each committee. All are active, discussing programs that may affect each other and developing a consensual approach to common issues.

During the 1984 court year, the Judiciary/Sheriffs' Liaison Committee developed a model plan for courthouse security throughout the state. The plan is the basis for security plans in each county, so that each county will have a comprehensive approach to court security.

STATISTICAL SERVICES

Statistical Services has four major responsibilities in monitoring and reporting on the performance of New Jersey's court system, information collection, processing and management; analysis and reporting; staff training; and auditing.

In 1984 Statistical Services collected about 40,000 reports from New Jersey's 540 municipalities, 300 Superior Court Judges, and 21 counties. That amounts to some 3,300 separate reports each month.

During the year, the Unit tabulated various aspects on more than 6 million violations, complaints and petitions. It also continued to build its very rich criminal data base with detailed information on about 20,000 defendants who pled or who were adjudicated guilty of crimes against New Jersey. Over 24 million separate pieces of information were collected, processed and maintained on the work of the courts in 1984 alone.

Statistical Services produces in excess of 200 statistical summaries each month. Those summaries address workload, court performance, judicial availability, and many other areas in support of special projects, trend analyses and more.

Most of the reports produced by the Unit are published in one or more of the Unit's three major reports:

- The Court Management Report (monthly)
- The Statistical Supplement to the Annual Report (annual)
- Proceedings of the Municipal Courts (annual)

During 1984, Statistical Services assisted in producing New Jersey's first annual report on Domestic Violence and produced the first statistical summary on Child Placement Review.

PERSONNEL SERVICES

Personnel Services is responsible for providing services to management and employees in all areas of personnel and employee relations in the Judicial Branch. Specific areas of responsibility include: recruitment, classification, compensation and administration of health and fringe benefits for employees on the State payroll; development of uniform personnel and employee relations policies for State payroll and trial court personnel and administration of the Judiciary's Affirmative Action Program.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Public Information Office is responsible for communicating information about court policies, programs and operations. The Office responds to citizen and media request for information, issues press releases and Supreme Court and Appellate Division argument schedules and opinions, coordinates the cameras in the courts program, and provides a daily clipping service of news articles on the Judiciary.

Public information publications include COURTWORKS, a quarterly newsletter for the people who work in the court system; the ANNUAL REPORT; and booklets, A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE NEW JERSEY COURTS and THE NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT, and the annual JUDICIAL PICTORIAL DIRECTORY.

The Office also provides public information assistance to the trial courts through the Assignment Judges, Trial Court Administrators and trial court staff designated as public information coordinators, and serves as staff to the Supreme Court Committee on Relations with the Media.

CIVIL PRACTICE

The Civil Practice Unit is responsible for the review and administration of rules and procedures in the civil courts, including Law and Chancery Divisions, General Equity Part and Special Civil Part of Superior Court, and County Surrogates' Offices.

Its ongoing work is in conjunction with its role as staff to several Supreme Court standing committees. These standing committees include:

- Civil Practice
- Special Civil Part
- Surrogates Liaison Committee
- Advisory Committee on Surrogates' Intermingled Trust Funds
- Model Jury Charges, Civil

Several projects associated with the civil courts were coordinated through this unit with the work of Justice Schreiber's Committee on Civil Case Management and Procedure. That Committee serves as the focal point for a major reexamination of the court procedures in management principles involved in civil litigation through the trial courts. The Judicial Conference of 1984 was the major forum for presenting the study of this Committee during a year-long effort. A report of that Conference appears elsewhere in this report.

Simultaneous with the work of the Schreiber Committee, other key events transpired requiring implementation through the Administrative Office of the Courts:

- the abolition of the County District Court

- the ongoing work of the Civil Practice Committee

- the ongoing work of the Committee on Special Civil Part

Since the Schreiber Committee, in its focus on differentiated case management, was considering many issues related to the Special Civil Part, the order served a transitional purpose. These issues, among others associated with case processing in the Law Division, were the subject of the Schreiber Committee.

Simultaneously, both the Committee on the Special Civil Part (formerly the County District Courts Committee) and the Civil Practice Committee received specific items for analysis to assist the Schreiber Committee in its mandate.

Another project complementing these efforts was the expansion of service by mail for initial process in the Special Civil Part. All counties were asked to plan for implementation of this procedure in calendar year 1985.

On December 13, 1983, Chief Justice Wilentz entered an order for the Supreme Court in anticipation of the abolition of the County District Court on December 31, 1983. Recommendations as to the contents of that order came from a joint subcommittee of the Civil Practice Committee and the County District Court Committee. The major purpose of the order was to preserve the separateness of the Special Civil Part, particularly as it pertained to: 1) the accessibility of that part to pro se litigants and 2) the cognizability of cases in this part with a specific dollar limit, e.g., $5,000.

CRIMINAL PRACTICE

The Criminal Practice Division is responsible for the review and administration of rules and procedures in the criminal courts, including the Criminal Division of the Superior Court and the Municipal Courts. The Criminal Practice Division consists of the Criminal Court Services Unit, the Pre-Trial Services Unit and the Municipal Court Services Unit.

The Division provides staff support to the following committees:

- Statewide Speedy Trial Coordinating Committee
- PROMIS/GAVEL Implementation Committee
- Criminal Practice Committee
- Judges Committee on Capital Causes
- Model Jury Criminal Charge Committee
- Municipal Court Committee
- Municipal Court Task Force
- Criminal Disposition Commision
- Conference of Presiding Judges, Criminal
- Conference of Case Managers, Criminal
- Committee on Sentencing
- Wiretap Committee

CRIMINAL RESTRUCTURING

In its continuing effort to use scarce resources more efficiently, the Judiciary began planning for a major restructuring effort of the criminal court support staff during the 1982-1983 court year. Major Supreme Court committees had suggested a restructuring to eliminate some of the fragmentation and duplication which have plagued the current system. At the heart of the initiative is the requirement that all of the fragmented court support units involved with case processing should be housed under one roof and directed by a single executive. The initiative also envisions the development of a cadre of professionals, called case supervisors, who would be responsible for all court support aspects of a case, including bail, PTI, pre-sentence, calendaring, scheduling, and recordkeeping. This verticalized approach not only provides needed accountability, but also reduces the duplication of work which occurs when cases move through multiple support units. Implementation of the criminal court management structure initiative occurred during the 1983-1984 court year. Criminal Case Managers were appointed in every vicinage to work with the Presiding Judges. This has lead to considerable progress in the reduction of duplication increasing efficiency of the Criminal Court support system.

PROPORTIONALITY REVIEW

The Criminal Court Services Unit also developed a system to track all homicides. This task was made necessary by the Death Penalty legislation which requires the Supreme Court to conduct proportionality reviews on death sentences. The unit also sent representatives to the National Center for State Courts' Proportionality Review Project which is drafting procedures for helping Supreme Courts conduct their mandated review.

PROMIS/GAVEL IMPLEMENTATION

During 1984 the PROMIS/GAVEL computor system expanded to cover Morris, Gloucester, Camden, Middlesex, Somerset and Essex counties. The staff developed refinements in a number of computer programs, particularly in the area of calendars and notices. At the request of the Advisory Committee, the staff prepared a method to accelerate its implementation, taking 6 counties at once and, in effect, training the counties centrally as a group.

PRETRIAL SERVICES

The Pretrial Services Unit coordinates the various bail, pretrial intervention, and dispute resolution units throughout the 21 counties. During the court year, this unit developed a system for monitoring populations in the various county jails, which has been useful in addressing the problems created by recent severe jail overcrowding, and provided assistance to counties in developing 10% cash bail programs.

The unit also supervises the TASC (Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime) Project, a program providing intensive drug and alcohol rehabilitation for selected defendants. The Pretrial Services Unit also staffs the Supreme Court Committee on Complementary Dispute Resolution Programs.

MUNICIPAL COURT SYSTEM

In October, 1983 the Chief Justice announced the creation of the Supreme Court Task Force on Municipal Court Improvement chaired by Associate Justice Robert L. Clifford.

The Task Force has developed a number of issue papers that are being reviewed by local committees and Task Force members. The final report of the Task Force will be completed in Spring, 1985.

One of the greatest challenges to the Municipal Court system during the year was the continuing increase in the number of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) cases pending, as a result of increased enforcement and the backlog created by legal challenges raised about the validity of the breathalyzer test as evidence.

The AOC received a grant to fund DWI backlog reduction programs in all municipalities with excessive numbers of pending cases over 60 days old, to develop a municipal court procedures manual, and to train judges on adjudicating DWI cases. In addition, a system for statistical tracking of DWI cases, particularly those over 60 days old, has been established and this information will be made available to Assignment Judges on a regular basis. Steps have also been taken to identify the key obstacles to reducing the processing time on DWI cases in order to meet a goal of 60 days from complaint to adjudication.

The development of a new municipal court manual was initiated. The manual will combine the existing narrative municipal court manual with a detailed procedures manual and model court forms. This looseleaf manual will provide, for the first time in a simple volume, all the information required for daily administrative operation of a municipal court. Similarly, comprehensive drafting of a bench manual for municipal court judges was begun.

FAMILY PRACTICE

The Family Practice Unit began operating on December 31, 1983 to provide support and assistance to the Family Division of Superior Court. This division was created by passage of a Constitutional amendment in November, 1983.

The new division handles virtually all family-related matters including delinquency, dissolution, non-dissolution and adoption cases. Family Division staff was involved in the drafting of the court rules for the new court as well as various directives dealing with matters such as uniform docketing procedures, forms, statistical reporting and court clerk responsibilities.

The division provides staff to the Family Practice Committee, the Conference of Presiding Family Division Judges, the Family Court Liaison Committee, and the Child Placement Review Advisory Committee.

During the year, Family Practice staff also prepared an operations and organization plan for the administration of the Family Division. This plan was reviewed at a three-day seminar for newly appointed Family Division vicinage presiding judges and case managers. Pursuant to the state plan, each vicinage prepared and submitted to the Administrative Office a plan for the implementation of the Family Division. Family Division staff assisted the Administrative Director in the review of the vicinage plans.

Staff was involved in a variety of training programs including several relating to the new Code of Juvenile Justice which became effective on January 1, 1984. Particular attention was given to the training of personnel of the county juvenile - family crisis intervention units.

These units were established to attend and stabilize family crises which involve a child's truancy, running away from home or other manifestation of familial dysfunction.

Staff also visited the vicinages to assist in the identification of and compliance with the various statutes and court regulations which govern the operation of the Family Division. Staff also helped produce a manual of procedures for termination of parental rights cases and prepared for the intercounty transfer of the Family Division's automated information system known as JISRA and for the legislatively mandated matrimonial supervised visitation program.

SUPERVISED VISITATION

Family Division staff assisted the field in establishing a Supervised Visitation Program pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq. The purpose of the program is to facilitate court-ordered supervised visitation by making available facilities and members of local community organizations. The Administrative Director has approved sites and supervisors. There is a Vicinage Visitation Coordinator (VVC) in each vicinage who coordinates the visitation schedule among the sites, supervisors and the parties. The VVC also keeps the judge who ordered the supervised visitation appraised of the status of the visitation. Further, there is an Administrative Director's Supervised Visitation Program Advisory Committee which meets to develop guidelines for the program, to share information and to problem share.

LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Division of Legal and Professional Services is responsible for functions relating to judicial ethics, professional ethics and unauthorized practice of law, judicial education and training, court reporting services, jury utilization and management, support systems and procedures in the trial courts and library services. The division also provides staff support to the following Supreme Court Committees: Committee on Jury Utilization and Management, Sound Recording Services Committee, Judicial Labor Relations, the Advisory Committee on Computerization, Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct and Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics.

JURY UTILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Juror Utilization and Management office has responsibility for overseeing the jury operations in each of the twenty-one counties. The office provides technical assistance to county jury managers concerning the qualification, summoning and selection of jurors, and collects and distributes data on a monthly report basis. Each county's monthly performance is analyzed and compared to standard goals, the statewide average and to the other counties. Recommendations for specific changes in procedure of other suggestions are included within the monthly reports.

The unit also recommends statewide policy to the Supreme Court and prepares reports on jury-related matters as well as monitoring compliance with established policies. Juror excuse policies and qualification of handicapped persons as jurors were two areas examined during court year 1984.

Recent reductions in required terms of juror service have increased broad citizen representation. By January of 1984, all counties had reduced their required term of service to one week or less. Terms had been two to four weeks as recently as four years ago. In addition, several counties have gone beyond the one week standard by instituting one day/one trial systems in which a juror serves for either the duration of one trial or for one day, after which he/she is released from service. Some less-populated counties have enacted variations of this system

—requiring service for one trial or for two or three days.
These combined efforts have produced a 70% increase in the number of jurors serving since court year 1980 - 81. At the same time, management techniques directed by unit staff, and implemented at the county level, have reduced the total number of juror days served. This has resulted in considerable savings in juror fees and mileage reimbursement.

The reduction in terms of service and improved utilization, when coupled with a liberalized postponement policy, telephone call-in procedures and juror conveniences such as non-smoking areas and free or reduced-rate parking, have greatly reduced juror discomfort, inconvenience and idle time.

LEGAL SERVICES

The Legal Research Unit provides legal research and counseling for the Administrative Director and the Supreme Court. Often is assists AOC divisions faced with complex or novel legal questions. The unit also serves as legislative liaison for the AOC and provides judges and judiciary support staff with information on legislative developments.

The unit performs a number of miscellaneous functions, including:

- acting as secretariat for the Committee on Opinions which determines which of thousands of written court opinions will be published, thereby becoming part of New Jersey's case law;
- coordinating the review of court rules by the Supreme Court, and rule publication;
- liaison with the Attorney General for the purpose of obtaining legal representation for judges and court employees who are sued in the course of official duties;
- registration of all group legal services plans;
- distribution of law clerk resumes and coordination of Supreme Court approval of all trial level law clerks.

COURT REPORTING SERVICES

Court Reporting Services is responsible for administration and supervision of a reliable system of daily court reporter services to cover proceedings in the Superior Court, and other proceedings as required by the Supreme Court or the Administrative Director. Its responsibilities include a system for control of timely filing by court reporters of transcripts of trial court proceedings ordered for use on appeal to the Superior Court, Appellate Divison.

OFFICE OF LIBRARY SERVICES

The Office of Library Services provides professional law library services to the Justices of the Supreme Court, the judges of the Appellate and Chancery Divisions of Superior Court, the Tax Court, and the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts. This totals 70 libraries at 29 locations around the state. The office is also responsible for distribution of court reports throughout the state and the home library program in which 156 judges participate.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

As a result of the continually increasing volume of litigation and mounting administrative responsibilities, virtually unprecedented demands have been placed on New Jersey's Judicial system. Among the numerous methods initiated to enhance the Judiciary's ability to meet the increased demands are control of the flow of business through the courts with automated recordkeeping processes, the use of more efficient court management methods, the execution of studies/pilot projects in delay reduction, appellate case management, juror utilization and management, and litigation reform. With the proliferation of efforts to strengthen the judicial system, however, has come a growing awareness that the quality of justice will ultimately depend on the quality of performance of the judges. It was from this determination from which the growth of judicial education received its impetus.

Judicial Education and Training is responsible for providing education programs for all new judges and court-support personnel. The unit provides continuing education for judges and court-support personnel with emphasis on highly specialized areas of the law, new development in the law and management training. Judicial Education and Training activities during the court year included one hundred thirty-five (135) hours of in-state training for one thousand nineteen (1,019) judges and related court-support staff. These activities included the annual three-day residential Judicial College, which offered twenty-four courses to all upper court judges, and a two-day residential Orientation Seminar for forty new municipal court judges. In addition, there were seminars for judges and court-support personnel on Municipal Court Practice, Criminal Court Practice, Family Court Practice, Search and Seizure, Toxic Torts, Computors, Court Administration and Management Training.

Participation in out-of-state programs serves as a complement to in-state programs. Eighty judges attended out-of-state programs sponsored by the various national educational institutions including the National Judicial College, National College of Juvenile Justice, American Academy of Judicial Education, Institute for Court Management, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers, American Law Institute, Appellate Judges Seminars, and the Institute of Judicial Administration. This compares with seventy-four judges for the previous court year. To the extent funds are available, we anticipate being able to again increase our participation in these programs during the next court year.

Additional service to the judges and court-support staff is provided by publication of numerous procedural and substantive manuals, and memoranda related to recent legal-judicial developments. The audio cassette library has been expanded to include virtually all educational programs. Lectures and presentations are sound recorded or videotaped and made available on a loan basis.

SOUND RECORDING SERVICES

Sound Recording Services provides recording equipment and technical advice to Tax, Special Civil Part, Family Part, and Municipal Courts. Field staff inspects court facilities, approves sound recording equipment purchases and installation at the municipal court level, supervises transcript production and appeal processing, and provides individual on-site training and assistance when necessary.

PROBATION SERVICES

Probation Services oversees the work of the 21 county probation departments. It is responsible for the operations of the Child Support Enforcement Program, training, research, technical assistance, and the Interstate Compact for the supervision of adults and juveniles on probation.

It directly administers the experimental Intensive Supervision Program, and coordinates the Community Service Sentencing Program.

The Division conducts regular meetings of Chief Probation Officers, serves as liaison with other state and local agencies, and reviews and records outside employment by probation officers.

During the past year, the Division has undertaken two special projects designed to improve probation management and operations. Working with six counties and the National Institute of Corrections, these efforts will develop procedures and policies for ultimate adoption statewide.

REVOCATION GUIDELINES

This project will develop and pilot test standards and guidelines for the violation of probation and revocation process. The counties of Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May are participating in the development and testing. The first phase is focusing on adult probation followed by juvenile probation in the second phase.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Probation Services coordinates County Probation Departments' Community Service Sentencing Programs, involving offenders sentenced to perform service for public or non-profit agencies throughout the state. Probation Departments are responsible for screening offenders in the program and matching them to local community service work sites. Coordination activities include publication of a quarterly newsletter, the Community Service UPDATE, overseeing the distribution of state budget appropriations to the counties for operations of the programs, and providing technical assistance to the programs.

This year the Unit initiated a special, short-term theme project called SPRINGBOARD. Working with the Division of Parks and Forestry, offenders groomed 15 state parks and various local municipal areas to help "prepare New Jersey for summer recreation." More than 1,000 offender-days produced over 7,500 hours of work during the month of April.

The number of offenders performing community service increased by 61% this past year. As of June 30, 1984, 12,207 offenders were enrolled in the county probation programs. In all, 1,093,339.6 hours of service were performed between July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

One out of every 7.5 children in the State of New Jersey received assistance through the Court's Child Support Enforcement Program. Monitored by the Administrative Office of the Courts and implemented through all 21 county probation departments, Child Support Enforcement Programs are instrumental in stabilizing the income of households where at least one parent is absent and, in turn, reducing the welfare burden for those families already on public assistance.

PROBATION TRAINING

During the year, a total of 13,057 training hours were provided for 1,559 staff members. Training programs are undertaken by the unit on its own, or in conjunction with County Probation Departments or other public agencies.

In order to prepare for the implementation of the New Administrative Rules for Probation, the Probation Training Advisory Committee and the staff of the training unit have been working with county staff to effectuate the movement of the Probation Officer Orientation Training from the AOC Central Training Unit to the local county training officers. This change will provide orientation training within the first month of a staff person's employment. Counties now providing their own orientation training include: Passaic, Somerset, Middlesex, Essex, Ocean, Atlantic, Gloucester, and Camden.

With the computerization of the court system and County Probation Departments, the Training Unit has provided additional training in the basic and advanced levels of data processing; especially for Child Support Enforcement Supervisors. These skills will be used in automating the Child Support collection process statewide. The Unit worked with the State Division of Alcoholism to provide training in the area of alcohol abuse and rehabilitation and with the Hunterdon County Substance Abuse Unit in the area of narcotics abuse and rehabilitation.

An innovative program was developed with the Delaware Valley Consortium on Probation and Parole Training that provided a series of one-day workshops that included; Stress Management, White Collar Crime, Training the Trainer, Community Service, and Child Support Enforcement.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Division is responsible for court automation and computerization programs and to plan, design and implement the Judicial Computer Master Plan.

During the past year, the Division has gone through a reorganization and a period of rapid-growth to meet the goals and objectives of the nine-year Master Plan. The goal of the Plan is to assist the Judiciary in achieving increased efficiencies and productivity in planning and administering the operations of the courts statewide.

A part of the plan is to establish a Data Center where large mainframe computer applications can be implemented and placed in production. At the same time the Information Services Division (ISD) is to establish the concept of an information center where court personnel through the use of Office Automation and Personal Computers (PC) can meet some of their information needs.

During the past year ISD proceeded to implement the nine-year Master Plan in six areas:

- the construction of a Data Center
- the procurement of a large IBM mainframe computer.
- the recruitment and staffing of the ISD.
- the implementation of Office Automation and Personnel Computers.
- the implementation of caseload management systems.
- the establishment of data communications between the AOC and some local court jurisdictions.

The Administrative Office of the Courts received approval and funding to establish the sixth Data Center in State Government. Renovations were initiated to convert the present computer machine room into a large Data Center. An architect and engineering firm was contracted to draw up specifications for air conditioning, electrical and environmental requirements. The construction of the Data Center is to begin January 1985 and is to be completed by April 1985.

As part of the culmination of a Data Center, ISD completed the procurement process of an IBM 3081 GX Computer System. The large mainframe computer will be installed in 1985. During the interim period, the Treasury Data Center is being used for the development of caseload management systems for later transfer to the AOC Data Center.

In the establishment of a Data Center, ISD has initiated the development of on-line interactive caseload management systems. Each caseload management system will have the capability of doing case docketing, noticing, calendaring, monitoring, and preparing management and statistical reports. Priority has been given in the development of trial court systems, namely, Juvenile (JISRA), Traffic and Special Civil Part Caseload Management Systems.

A major undertaking is the development of a centralized information staff in an effective, cohesive organization which will have the resources, expertise and tools to achieve the goals of the Master Plan. Recognizing that the greatest asset of an information unit is its personnel, not its equipment, ISD began the arduous task of bringing together personnel with the necessary expertise to support its mission.

Office Automation is an important strategy to promoting greater efficiencies and cost effectiveness in carrying out the clerical, secretarial and administrative tasks associated in the operations of the Judiciary. A comprehensive office automation strategy plan includes not only word processing but the distribution of Personal Computers throughout the Judiciary. This has given court personnel and administrators the ability to meet some of the immediate information needs while the Data Center attends to the larger information needs. ISD's approach has been to create a formal policy of installing and maintaining all equipment, evaluating and selecting PC software, training of court personnel, developing PC applications and overall support of users in attaining proficiency in the use of office automation. IBM 5520 Administrative Systems have been installed in the Administrative Office of the Courts, Supreme Court Clerk's Office, Appellate Division and the Tax Court. IBM Displaywriter Systems have been installed in the judges' chambers. Thirty-five IBM PC/XT computers have been installed at all levels of the court. Each PC user has the use of software to do word processing, spreadsheets, graphics and data base management. ISD has planned the centralized development of PC applications such as trial court budgets, personnel systems, Civil auto arbitration and Civil motion calendars.

ISD, in cooperation with other State Agencies, is giving assistance in the development of automated systems such as the Automated Child Support Enforcement System (ACSES) and the PROMIS/GAVEL Criminal Justice System. An important ingredient to the success of ISD is the cooperation of personnel at all levels of the Judiciary and government including state, county and municipality.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Division of Management Services is responsible for providing a variety of support services including financial operations, purchasing, property management, and staff support to the Courts and other Administrative Office units as requested.

FISCAL

The Fiscal Unit is responsible for monitoring appropriated fund expenditures, preparing the annual budget request and developing varied financial projections and management reports.

During 1984, extensive efforts were devoted to restructuring the accounting and budgetary systems to more accurately reflect organizational components and thereby afford management with more appropriate financial information for both short and long range planning. In conjunction with this effort, the automated financial reporting system was further refined to more accurately provide expenditure data by operational unit.

CENTRAL SERVICES

Central Services is responsible for providing and coordinating varied services including purchasing, telecommunications, printing, mail, vehicle control, stockroom requisitions, and coordination of leased space matters.

During 1984, this service component conducted various efficiency studies relative to purchasing matters, automated certain operations to keep abreast of increased workload, and enhanced its operations via acquisition of technically advanced equipment.

This year saw substantial activity directed toward the planning and implementation of various relocations within the Justice Complex and the establishment of new leased space arrangements for Justices and Judges throughout the State.

TRUST AND SPECIAL FUNDS

The Trust and Special Funds Section has custodial responsibility for funds in excess of $89 million. The Superior Court Trust Fund accounts for $75.6 million, this representing monies paid into court pending resolution of litigation involving Condemnation Procedures, Tax Foreclosures, Chancery, Matrimonial, and other matters. The Special Funds Section accounts for the remaining $13.4 million, which represents funds for Federal Grants and the Child Support and Paternity Program (Title IV-D).

During the year, the unit issued 16,000 notices to potential claimants with respect to excess interest accrued in the Superior Court Trust Fund and assisted in conducting field audits of various specially funded programs.